

# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## Health Food Store Finds 1990s a Hard Row to Hoe

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

There's nothing slick about the place. The wooden floors are knicked, the shelves are cluttered. But for 18 years, the fading yellow storefront at the corner of Sanchez and 29th streets, called the Noe Valley Community Store, has been a haven for politically progressive shoppers in search of healthy organic produce, reasonable prices, and a friendly, helpful staff.

"It was politically correct to shop here before anyone worried about being politically correct," said Bill Snyder, a customer of 10 years.

Added Tamara Patri, another loyal customer, "This is a true community store. It's an honest, trusting, down-to-earth, no bullshit kind of place."

Yet, amidst all the seemingly good work and good food, the store is facing some tough financial times. The recession, ever-increasing competition, and changing neighborhood demographics have left the six-member collective that runs the store wondering if there's a place left for their kind of business in the 1990s.

"Noe Valley is no longer a working-class Irish neighborhood," said Alan Weedy, who has been a part of the collective since 1975. "There are a lot more yuppies around here who go for the glitz."

The neighborhood has also become more transient, points out Alejandro Robles, another member of the collective.

"People have been moving away more frequently," he said, "and the new people who come into the neighborhood just don't know we exist."

In mid-November, an ominous handwritten note to shoppers appeared on the Community Store's front door, request-



The collective that operates the Noe Valley Community Store, whose members include (from left) Alejandro Robles, Jorge Duarte, and Alan Weedy, is struggling to keep their neighborhood institution alive. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

ing donations of cash (or six-month, interest-free loans) because "our bank is demanding an early transfusion of funds."

This is the store's third—and biggest—plea for financial help since 1988, when for the first time in its long history, it sought aid from customers. The Community Store's patrons came through for the store then, and once again in 1990.

This time, says Weedy, the store needs

to come up with \$3,000. "It's probably a temporary situation, but we're very close to the edge right now," said Weedy.

Without the bailout, the grocery might be forced to shut its doors, which could mean gloomy shopping days ahead for hundreds of loyal customers, from Potrero Hill to the Haight. For these San

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## 24th Street Merchants Haven't Felt Recession...Yet

By Barbara Austen

Recession? What recession? That seems to be the predominant attitude among Noe Valley merchants these days, according to an informal poll conducted on 24th Street last month.

Although many local shopkeepers have detected a slight decrease in business over the past few months, most "are not losing sleep over it," reports Jack Epstein, owner of Ocean Front Walkers, a clothing store at 4069 24th St.

"We're hanging in there quite well," said Epstein, noting, however, that he was hedging his bets by selecting merchandise more carefully.

Jon Arnold, owner of Aquarius Records at 3961 24th St., admits that business seems more erratic than in the past. This fall, the record shop experienced a few extraordinarily busy days, followed by a string of very slow days, he said.

But Arnold and other 24th Street shop owners aren't sure whether the dips are related to the national economic downturn, or due to PG&E's pipeline project, which has been churning up Noe Valley's main commercial strip for close to two months. (See PG&E story, page 3.)

Janet Gray of The Pantry, a culinary shop at 24th and Sanchez, agreed that PG&E had thrown a wrench into the works. "We had our regular customers come in [during the construction], but no foot traffic," she pointed out.

But Gray thinks Noe Valley may indeed be bucking the national trend. "When they said that we were in the middle of a recession this summer, we

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## Sally Brunn Dies at 62

## Noe Valley Loses Its Library Champion

By Michele Lynn

Sally Brunn, one of Noe Valley's most beloved neighborhood residents, died Oct. 19, following a six-month battle with cancer.

During the more than three decades she lived on Hoffman Avenue, Brunn's compassionate spirit, and tireless efforts on behalf of public libraries and schools, touched many individuals, both directly and indirectly.

Miriam Blaustein, a Friends of Noe Valley member who worked closely with Brunn, captured the sentiment expressed by everyone who knew her: "You don't have time to hear all the good things about Sally. She was a wonderful person. We're really going to miss her."

If a quilt of Sally Brunn's life were created, it would be filled with vibrant panels depicting family, friends, libraries, schools, children, gardens, flowers, and trees. It would be stitched together with the qualities Brunn's friends used to describe her: gentle, soft-spoken, ego-

less, caring, smart, patient, persistent, trusting, kind, generous, devoted, good-humored, and fun.

Sally Ambrose Brunn was born in Berkeley on Aug. 28, 1929. Her love affair with books and reading began in early childhood, and she spent many happy summers with friends exploring new worlds through the books in the neighborhood library.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley, she continued her studies at San Francisco State University. She then headed to New York, where she spent a year working at McGraw-Hill Publishing Company.

After returning to San Francisco in the 1950s, she worked in advertising and magazine publishing while becoming increasingly active in politics. She was inspired by Democrat Adlai Stevenson, and volunteered in his 1952 and 1956 presidential campaigns.

A mutual interest in politics brought Sally together with her future husband,

John Brunn. As John remembers, "Sally and I met on August 25, 1963—a date that we always celebrated—through activities in the local reform Democratic clubs. My first impression was that she was easy to talk to, and we had common interests in books and politics."

Less than a year after they met, John and Sally became husband and wife. And in 1964, the Brunn's purchased their Edwardian home on Hoffman Avenue in Noe Valley. It was in that house that the couple raised their two children, daughter Nancy, now 22, and son David, 19.

According to John, Sally's favorite quotation was, "It's better to know the streets of your neighborhood than all the pathways of heaven." And she wasted little time getting acquainted with her neighbors, joining the residents' group Friends of Noe Valley in the late 1960s.

In an interview with the *San Francisco Independent* a month before she died, Sally told how she first became involved in championing the Noe Valley Library. "When we moved here, the neighbor-



A longtime neighborhood activist and library advocate, Sally Brunn was feted at a party in September, a month before her death. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BRUNN

hood library was not open on Saturday, and we had no children's librarian. Al Lanier and I went to the Library Commission and told them we needed some

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# Merchants Keep Fingers Crossed

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were doing great," she said. "Maybe people are eating at home more, but they are still also buying gifts."

Robert Jancula, who recently opened a second Classy Sweats clothing outlet on 24th Street, reported the best summer he'd ever had in terms of sales. He said he'd noticed a decrease this fall, but attributed it to PG&E—and to the fact that he hadn't received all the clothing lines for his new store near Castro Street. He was hopeful that business would pick up as soon as the new merchandise arrived.

In general, business owners and managers were reluctant to talk about the "R" word, for fear of making it a reality.

Esther Goldman, manager of Star Magic, the space-age gift store at 4026 24th St., said she didn't want to "feed into the energy of the recession," because she feels that people's outlook can have a direct impact on the situation. If people are positive and optimistic, she said, then the economy will reflect that attitude.

Goldman wants to remain open to the possibility of a good Christmas, and she says she has already noticed an increase in early Christmas shoppers over last year. "We have a lot of past employees coming back to work for the holidays," she added.

Marjory Panetti, owner of Panetti's Gifts at 3927 24th St., looks forward to a good Christmas, also. Like Goldman, she has hired additional help and extended the shop's hours to include evenings.

"Noe Valley seems like a steady neighborhood," said Panetti, and in her view, it's the strong support from local residents that has kept 24th Street recession-proof.

Scott Cantley, who manages Spinelli's Coffee across the street, doesn't think the recession has affected the mocha-latte trade at all. "One of the last things people want to cut back on is coffee," Cantley maintains. He projects that Spinelli's holiday season will be even busier than usual, because people turn to less expensive gifts such as food and coffee when their budgets are tight.

Glen Potter, owner of Accent on Flowers at 4080 24th St., says florists are doing well for the same reason. "When things get tough, people can afford flowers when they can't afford anything else," he says.

The leisure travel business has also continued to flourish, "knock on wood," says Mike Langsdorf, manager of Global Travel Too on 24th near Noe. Langsdorf reports a 6 percent increase in business, and has even hired a new agent and opened two new offices in San Francisco this year.

At Cocolat, a French pastry and chocolate specialty shop on 24th near Castro,

## LETTERS 29¢

### Upper Noe Beat Cop Reports Some Milestones

Editor:

Good news—San Francisco's Community Police On Patrol (CPOP) program is working because you care.

As the community police officer for Upper Noe Valley (the southern part of the neighborhood from Army to 30th Street), I am pleased to report that crime is down in the area, resulting partly from the residents' participation in my "crime watch."

Back in September, I received a call at Ingleside Station from a concerned Noe Valley resident, who said there was drug-dealing going on in a nearby house. For the next two weeks I set up a surveillance on this house and its occupants. From what this concerned Noe Valley resident had observed and from my own observations, I gathered enough information to obtain a search warrant. Accompanied by another CPOP officer, I served the warrant and recovered about a pound of marijuana and a small amount of cocaine. Following our investigation, we arrested one of the tenants and his friend.



In a separate incident in October, a fellow officer and I were awaiting a tow truck at 30th and Whitney streets, when a suspect known to us to have an outstanding felony warrant entered Day Street Park. I gave chase and caught him at 29th and Sanchez streets, and then placed him under arrest. This suspect was the last one still at large of a gang of 12 who had been suspected of committing a string of robberies in our city several months back.

So that we can continue to have success in our crime-stopping efforts, I'd like to remind residents to take a few simple precautions:

manager Jodi Smylie has noted a 50 percent increase in sales this year. "Our business has never done better, and we're opening a new store next week," said Smylie.

Easily the most crowded shop on 24th Street last month was Underwater Pets, whose brightly-colored tropical fish and wrinkled gray iguanas provide an irresistible lure for customers. And sure enough, even though the store is only nine months old, owner Michelle Barbe reports that business has steadily increased during 1991.

Maybe for this tiny, isolated commercial island, President Bush was right. "There is no recession" in Noe Valley—at least for the time being. □

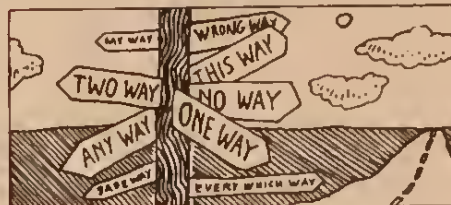
- Keep your back doors and windows locked at night.
- Keep that porch light on at night.
- Keep valuables out of sight in your car.

- Keep money and house keys in your pocket, not your purse.

- And, finally, report suspicious persons in your neighborhood.

I can be reached at the Ingleside CPOP number, 333-3433. Thanks again, and keep up the good work.

Steve Ratto  
Community Police Officer  
Ingleside Station CPOP



### One-way Plan for 23rd Street Not So Clear-cut

Editor:

I am responding to an article in your November issue ["Traffic Planners Crack Down on 24th Street Double-Parkers"], which discussed, among other things, the city's rejection of a Friends of Noe Valley proposal to make the block of 23rd Street from Chattanooga to Dolores one way going east. (The portion of 23rd from Church to Chattanooga is already one way in that direction.)

The story quoted Friends member John Stalp as saying that the neighborhood residents who opposed the proposal might reconsider, once they saw the change in a "broader context" and not as "just another one-way street." But the article failed to give the opposition's side.

In my view, the city's Parking and Traffic Department rejected the Friends' request because the proponents did not adequately prove their case that this change would represent an improvement in traffic conditions. My main reason for opposing the one-way extension is that I've seen people coming down the hill on 23rd and keep on going, failing to stop at either the Chattanooga or Dolores Street intersections. Making the rest of the street one way might only encourage this unsafe situation.

We also need further traffic studies to determine what the true impact of a one-way extension would be.

David Blow  
Chattanooga Street

### Sexual Harassment Still Has a Grip on Bar Scene

Editor:

Unfortunately, Noe Valley's night life can seem like a big step back in time.

Last Oct. 18, I witnessed a scene at a local bar that will keep me out of Noe Valley for a while. A group of people were dancing to the music from the juke-



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box when a man barged in on them and began rubbing his rear end up against a woman. She tried backing away, but he kept sticking his rear end right into her private regions, so she punched him in the face.

Instead of accepting the fact that he deserved it, the man hit her back. This was followed by a shoving match with one of her friends. After this, he rounded up a group of his own friends, and returned to the woman and began calling her names. When she stood up for herself, he emptied a beer on her head. When she shoved him in response, a fight nearly broke out between the two groups. So the dancers packed it up and left for the night.

What was especially infuriating to me was the way this woman and her friends were taunted and hassled by most of the people (of both sexes) who had witnessed the scene. This display of common support for sexual harassment was a sad reflection on this establishment's clientele.

The bar is a typical bar for Noe Valley—one that attracts a close-knit group of area residents—so it provides a representative sample of "neighborhood hospitality." And because of this incident, it has lost my business. That may not matter much since I'm from another neighborhood, but the friend I was with, who lives on 25th Street, made the same decision.

Lester Edwards  
Third Avenue

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# There's Light At the End of PG&E Tunnel

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Residents should be relieved to hear that Pacific Gas & Electric's seven-month, multimillion-dollar gas line upgrading project in Noe Valley will be completed by the end of December, according to PG&E official Roy Surges.

Since June, crew members from the utility company have been digging trenches and boring holes in neighborhood streets to replace the system's outdated, deteriorating steel pipes, some of which are over 90 years old. The new plastic pipes will be less apt to corrode, less costly to maintain, and more earthquake-resistant than their predecessors, Surges said.

The Noe Valley upgrading is part of a 20-year program PG&E started in 1985 throughout its California service territories. The utility company is installing the new state-of-the-art pipes in areas that either have very old pipes, sit on landfill, or face a greater risk of earthquake damage. Fifty percent of the upgrading work will take place in San Francisco neighborhoods.

The first phase of the Noe Valley portion—covering the blocks of 22nd, 23rd, and Elizabeth streets from Church to Castro—was expected to be finished by Nov. 30, Surges said.

The second phase, which includes 24th, Jersey, 25th, and Clipper streets from Church to Castro, began in August and is now more than 80 percent complete. Surges pointed out that the work crews have been moving in a southerly direction, and will wind up the last leg of the project, at Clipper and Castro, by the end of the month. (The rest of Noe Valley, beyond Clipper Street, is not a part of the current upgrading work.)

All summer and into the fall, residents and merchants in the affected areas have had to negotiate a maze of dug-up streets and sidewalks, as well as cope with the increased noise, lost parking spaces, and traffic tie-ups caused by crew members operating tractors and cement trucks, backfilling trenches, and repaving the roadway.

Homes and businesses also found themselves without gas for at least one day while pipes were installed from their buildings to the street.

Surges said PG&E was forced to relocate gas meters at some residences, which in many cases involved digging up homeowners' flowers and shrubbery. However, he added, the company made an effort to notify property owners of the construction schedule well in advance, and had a professional landscaper on hand to repair any damages.

Nevertheless, Surges admitted, "This project has been really tough on residents. There's been lots of congestion,



Over the summer, the neighborhood grew used to scenes like this, as PG&E conducted some early-morning operations on 25th Street, outside the home of our photographer. But the utility's pipe renovation project is finally coming to an end this month.



During the course of its five-month pipe replacement project, PG&E created an obstacle course on Jersey Street. PHOTOS BY PAMELA GERARD.

and parking has been a mess, but the neighborhood has been very cooperative."

He noted that because of good weather conditions, PG&E was actually completing the project two months ahead of schedule. (The utility originally thought work would extend through February.)

Merchants along 24th Street were perhaps most inconvenienced by the construction, especially since it took place at the start of the holiday shopping season. Many reported a significant drop in business during the last week in October, when PG&E was concentrating on the blocks between Sanchez and Castro.

Still, most business owners maintained a positive outlook.

"Of course, there is always some disruption when you're talking about a project of this size," said Harry Aleo, presi-

dent of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. "But overall the business community was pleased with the fast and efficient job PG&E did."

On Oct. 30, PG&E shut off the gas along 24th Street, forcing Panos' restaurant at the corner of Noe to close for the day. Owner Vi Gianaras decided to schedule some simultaneous maintenance and clean-up work at the restaurant, including a new paint job. And by dinner time on Oct. 31, she said, Panos' had reopened.

Although her restaurant's lunch business was down by 50 percent for most of the prior week, Gianaras said she was satisfied with the way PG&E handled the job.

"I give PG&E four stars for the efforts they made," she said. "They did an excellent job of communicating with us and accommodating our schedule as best as possible. There was no pleasant way to do this, but they minimized the discomfort."

She added that PG&E had "good back-up support" to deal with problems caused by the pipe replacement. "The crew missed relighting some pilot lights in our restaurant that we couldn't do without," she said. "As soon as we notified PG&E, someone was out here right away to fix the problem."

But at a Friends of Noe Valley meeting in October, a few residents complained that PG&E had cancelled scheduled start-up dates for some streets with little warning. Others objected, on aesthetic grounds, to PG&E's decision to install pipelines along the retaining walls at some properties, instead of burying them underground.

According to Surges, however, most problems had been resolved by November—all except one, that is: graffiti. "The graffiti has been a constant problem," said Surges.

On 24th, Clipper, and several other streets, he explained, graffiti taggers had

decided to christen the sidewalks that PG&E had repaved after digging them up. In many cases, PG&E had to repave the surfaces two or three times, Surges said.

Well, next year, the mischief will move on to other San Francisco neighborhoods. In 1992, PG&E plans to replace pipes in the Telegraph Hill, Chinatown, South of Market, and Russian Hill areas. Besides Noe Valley, pipe work has already been completed in portions of the Marina, Potrero Hill, and the Embarcadero.

Noe Valley residents who have questions or who have encountered problems regarding PG&E's pipe upgrading should contact Roy Surges at 824-7367. □

## We're Chillin' But Still Willin' To Return

It's time once again for the *Voice* editors and contributors to blend back into the general population of Noe Valley and vicinity. Yeah, this is it: issue number 10 for the year, and we're outa here until 1992.

If that's a concept you can get behind, then join us in taking December as a hang-out and be-cool month.

The next *Voice* will be published in February (Feb. 4, to be exact), so please send us your letters, story suggestions, calendar items, and class ads by Jan. 15, 1992. (You display advertisers get to loll around until Jan. 24, but it might be a good idea to give ad man Steve Steinberg a ring before then. His number is 239-1114.) In any case, the address is the same: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

See you on the flip side. And peace, dude. □

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# 18-Year-Old Community Store Struggling to Survive

Continued from Page 1

Franciscans, the Noe Valley Community Store is a shopping solace—a place where it's still common practice to bag your own groceries, buy in bulk, and wait in a checkout line of three or more customers.

Time and again, shoppers interviewed for this story spoke of their "personal commitment" to the store. Most said they made at least two or three trips a week to the shop—and some even fessed up to daily drop-ins.

"It's part of my daily life," said Jonathan Pesner, a four-year Community Store-aholic. "It allows me to shop as I need things. If the store closes, it would really diminish the pleasure of living in this neighborhood for me. I like the comfortable, non-urban feel the store has."

"I really enjoy the people who work there," said Ann Nore, a customer for the past 13 years. "They've become my friends."

Although the Community Store doesn't have 50 blends of radicchio and other high-brow salads to choose from, its customers still manage to find an eclectic selection of good-for-you food, ranging from Heger yellow corn, organic polenta, and pine nuts, to whole wheat fish sticks and organic pinot noir.

Patri often plans her weekly menus

around the vegetables available in the Community Store's produce department. And when Pesner occasionally finds himself short on cash in the checkout line, clerks still let him take his purchases home, trusting that he'll be back later in the day to settle up.

Community Store shoppers are never subjected to those annoying Muzak versions of Billy Joel tunes, which most supermarkets force-feed their customers. Instead, the Doors, Keith Jarrett, and Taste of Brazil rule at 1599 Sanchez St.—as do progressive politics. The sign in front of the Community Store reads, "No racism. No war." Inside, the walls are lined with brightly-colored flyers soliciting help for organizations like the Planet Drum Foundation and the Latin American Refugee Shelter.

"The store supports worthy causes without making a fuss," said Patri, who now lives in Noe Valley but started shopping at the store in 1979 when she was a Potrero Hill resident. "I always get a good feeling when I go in the place. I feel recharged when I see an enterprise like the Community Store, because most things in the world are so discouraging today."

The trouble is that a new generation of loyal patrons like Nore, Snyder, Patri, and Pesner has failed to materialize. While many people might appreciate the shop's politics, homey atmosphere, and

fair prices, they're reluctant these days to put up with the store's inconvenient hours and location, and its smaller selection of groceries.

According to Weedy, some consumers have scratched organic produce—which can be twice as expensive as run-of-the-mill fruits and vegetables—from their shopping lists, because of rough economic times. And Noe Valley residents have flocked to Church Street Produce—two blocks from the Community Store—to take advantage of their low prices.

What's more, several Bernal Heights residents who used to make the trek to the Community Store to buy organic foods have been shopping on their own turf since mid-August, when a Good Life Grocery opened on Cortland Avenue.

Other customers just aren't willing to make a trip to more than one grocery store, as Patri does, to pick up items like detergent and frozen grapefruit juice, which she can't find at the Community Store. Today, most consumers are looking for one-stop shopping, and the chain stores like Safeway or Bell Market often offer a selection of organic produce and bulk items, in addition to their mainstream products.

One former Community Store shopper echoed the sentiments of many when she said, "I still support the Community Store politically, even though I shop mostly at Real Food and Bell Market

nowadays. I just can't get to the Community Store between 10 and 7, the hours it's open during the week."

The Community Store suffered a major blow in October, when a new Walt Disney movie, shooting on streets near the store, made it almost impossible for customers to find a nearby parking spot. Business dipped 13 percent as a result.

Although the store wasn't directly involved in the filming, as some neighborhood stores along Church Street were, collective members still plan to write to the studio, requesting compensation for the loss in income.

"When people started coming in again in November, they told us that the filming was the reason they had stayed away," Weedy said.

Since he and other members of the collective started talking up the store's plight in mid-November, customers have begun to rally to save the store from closure. Patri has been making an effort to stock up on all sorts of durable goods, like canned soups and sauces, until the store gets over the financial hump. Two customers have offered the store loans, totalling \$1,500. Another long-time shopper donated \$1,000—the largest donation the store has ever received.

"I practically fell off my chair when I opened the envelope and saw the amount of the check," said Weedy. "It was very generous. The shopper wants to see the store survive."

While the store will most likely get through the next few months with the help of these short-term loans and donations, its chances over the long haul are iffy. It remains to be seen how the collective plans to cope with its declining customer base, not to mention the need to repair its 15-year-old refrigeration equipment, which is increasingly on the fritz. There has been some talk among collective members of dropping leaflets door to door and taking out advertising space in the *Noe Valley Voice* to drum up new business.

But about the only thing that's clear to collective members is that the 1990s is a very different time from the 1970s.

When Weedy came to the Community Store 16 years ago, disenchanted with his job in corporate America, the food collective was just one of many in San Francisco. Today, it is the longest surviving collective in the city, although three younger stores are still around—Rainbow Grocery, Other Avenues Food Store, and the Inner Sunset Community Food Store.

In the late '70s, 20 of the Community Store's 30 staff members were volunteers—primarily white, middle-class men and women who decided to help out a worthy cause while they plotted their future. In fact, Weedy himself started out as a volunteer.

"I collected \$150 a week in unemployment in those days," he recalled. "I could live on that and even manage to save a little. People could get involved in things like the Community Store in the '70s because they could afford to work for nothing."

By the early 1980s, that was no longer the case. The volunteers had taken paying jobs. Even some members of the collective have had to quit and find other jobs because they could no longer make ends meet on their salary from the store.

However, the collective is more culturally diverse today than it was in its early years. People from Brazil, Mexico, Nicaragua, and England now comprise the six-member group; the last American-born member left in May. The collective still meets every other week to brainstorm and make decisions. Four "substitute workers" are also on hand to help out in the store during busy times.

Although the Community Store's future is uncertain as it heads into what is usually its busiest time of the year, Weedy and his colleagues remain optimistic.

"We've seen other times that were this bad," he said, "and we've come back from them. Hopefully, we'll be able to pull it off again." □

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## Running Laps With Glide's Cecil Williams

By Jeanne Alexander

He's running late, coming from taping a television show commemorating the late Bill Graham. Rev. Cecil Williams strides into the reception room of the Glide building at 330 Ellis St., pauses to deal with an accumulation of staff questions and phone messages ("Bill Honig called," his secretary notes), and invites a reporter to follow the sign into his office.

It's a day, like many another overbooked day, for the pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church.

Renowned for turning his concern into action, the 62-year-old minister advocates for the homeless, fights a relentless war on crack, runs an AIDS testing and education project, and feeds several thousand people a day at his church in the heart of the Tenderloin.

Within the last month, he has counseled many victims of the East Bay fire, scrounged up alternative living quarters for two of his own staff members who lost homes, and still managed to find time to speak at conferences in Atlanta, Portland, San Diego, and Washington, D.C.

On this November day, he's fighting a cold, and keeps his brown leather bomber jacket on. "Yesterday I was not feeling well, so I took some time away at home," he says.

For the past 10 years, home—on a secluded street in Glen Park—has been Williams' refuge from a back-breaking schedule. It's also within walking distance of 24th Street, where he and his wife Janice Mirikitani (who writes poetry as Jan Mirikitani) frequently shop.

Williams knows the places (if not precisely their names) that have what he wants. "I like the health food store [Real Food Company] and the bookstore [Cover to Cover]," he says. "And there's a place right next door that has a lot of gifts from Guatemala and South American countries [Global Exchange]. We go to that restaurant across the street with the patio in the back [Courtyard Cafe], and we have just found a very small Japanese restaurant [Matsuya]."

He adds that "there's a gift shop that my wife loves to shop in [Panetti's] and a record store where I go to pick up records [Streetlight]." Williams also gets his yogurt "from the ice cream store on the corner of 24th and Castro [Rory's]," and notes that Janice also buys gifts "across the street [Out of Hand]."

Jogging around Noe Valley is another of Williams' regular pastimes, although he was recently sidelined for a couple of months with an ankle sprain. When describing his route—from the Diamond Heights Shopping Center to Clipper, down Clipper and over to 24th Street, out 24th to Dolores, up Dolores to 29th, and up the steep 29th Street hill—he sprawls, laughing, on his desk. "I kill myself! It's awful. It's awful."

An even more challenging routine is the schedule he has organized for Glide's



Reverend Cecil Williams, shown here at a recent Sunday service, hardly has time to sit down these days—what with his grueling "outreach" schedule at Glide Memorial Church.  
PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

upcoming holiday season, which begins on Friday, Dec. 20, with the distribution of 8,000 grocery bags (7,100 last year) to needy families. The bags contain turkey, canned goods, pasta, and bread—\$30 to \$35 worth of food, Williams says.

"People come from all over the city—Chinatown, the Western Addition, the Mission, Bayview/Hunter's Point, the Tenderloin, the Ingleside. We have lines shoulder-to-shoulder, three-deep, all around this block."

Two days later, on Dec. 22, Glide will conduct its annual toy giveaway, distributing nearly 5,000 gift-wrapped toys following the 11 a.m. Sunday service.

On Dec. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Glide sponsors its Christmas Eve lunch, with food catered by a number of the city's public-spirited restaurants, which not only donate their house specialties, but also send over employees to help serve.

Christmas Day is a meal marathon. Brunch goes from 7 to 9:30 a.m., and from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Christmas dinner is served, featuring "turkey and dressing with all the trimmings."

Williams says Glide plans to feed close to 7,000 people this year, and notes that the church needs volunteers for these holiday happenings, to help distribute grocery bags, wrap presents for the children, and cut up 500 turkeys, 400 hams, and salad makings for those 7,000 din-

ners. On Dec. 25, kitchen prep begins at 6 a.m. and continues until the kitchen closes down at 3:30 that afternoon.

The Christmas service, like those on Sunday mornings, features Glide's 60-voice gospel choir, a six-piece band, "children who do things," and Williams' own rousing, exhilarating address. Worship services are called "celebrations," and Williams casts himself as a "minister of liberation."

At times, Williams has tried to bring in guest preachers for special occasions. But church members ("especially a lot of the younger folks in their 20s and 30s") have protested that they would rather hear him. "So I have to deal with that," he says with modesty.

Williams wasn't always the man the congregation wanted to hear, however. Born and raised in San Angelo, Tex., he went to Houston-Tillotson College in Austin for undergraduate work in sociology, and was one of the first African Americans to graduate from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he earned his master's degree in theology.

While minister at a church in Kansas City, he decided to come to the Bay Area and study "on what they call Holy Hill over there in Berkeley, where the Pacific School of Religion is, and the Divinity School for the Episcopalians." Williams enrolled at both institutions, and also took courses in social ethics at the Uni-

versity of California. That's when Bishop Donald Tippet asked him to come to Glide.

When Williams arrived at the church in 1963, its membership had dwindled to between 30 and 60 people—"all WASPS. And they did not want me to be their minister," Williams recalls. "After I had been here a month, they went to the bishop—a white hishop—and said, 'This man has pulled off his rohe, he doesn't stand by the pulpit, and he's talking about bringing jazz music into the church.' And the bishop said, 'I've got 32 churches in this area—go to one of them. I've told Rev. Williams that I want him to kcep the doors of that church open.' And that's what we did."

For the past 28 years, Williams has espoused the belief that the church should play an active role in society, addressing secular as well as spiritual needs. In fact, in 1964, he went so far as to take down the church's cross. "We can't wait on Jesus," he says. "We have to bear our own cross."

In the most recent demonstration of his activist philosophy, Williams announced last month that Glide would begin offering free, anonymous AIDS testing—along with safe sex packets—to members of the congregation, following the Sunday service.

"No church in America, I'm sure, is offering tests and information on how to deal with AIDS," Williams declared. "Let's stop denying the fact that AIDS exists."

Today Glide's doors are open to an ethnically-mixed congregation of 3,600 members and some 28 human service programs, directed by Mirikitani. They range from "Facts on Crack" and the Glide/Goodlet HIV/AIDS Project, to "Computers and You," which provides computer education, skills training, and preparation for the job market.

Asked if Glide has been replicated in other cities, Williams shakes his head. "I received an invitation to come to New York City and set up something, but the political forces fought it. They don't want Glide to come there and have the impact."

He declines to identify the source of the invitation or the political forces, but the opposition doesn't surprise him. "I have invitations from people in cities all over... and they'll let me come in and speak, but they won't let me do any organizing."

Lizzie Glide, he thinks, would approve of what Glide has become. "The church is named after Lizzie, who was an eccentric," he explains. "She had the money, and she was interested in the Tenderloin and the poor. This was a middle-class and upper-middle-class church, and a lot of the members didn't like her. But Lizzie broke the line and built this six-story building as a residence for what they used to call 'wayward girls.'"

Noting that the building at Ellis and Taylor now houses the church and its human services programs, he says, "There's a cornerstone at the church that reads: 'This is a church for all people.' We're just walkin' in her tradition. We're carrying on what she started. If they say Miss Glide is turning over in her grave, I say, yeah, she's applauding. I just picked up on her spirit." □

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# A Fond Farewell to Sally Brunn

Continued from Page 1

changes."

Lanier, a Castro Street resident and fellow member of Friends of Noe Valley, says it was Sally's never-give-up attitude that brought the city around. "We asked the city to let us put in a deck and a garden, instead of their repaving the asphalt [at the back of the library]. We asked for a community grant of about \$7,500. Sally and I sat in the Board of Supervisors' chambers until about 1 a.m.," Lanier recalled with a laugh. "They were probably so tired that they just threw up their hands and gave the money to us!"

Patrons of the Noe Valley Library have Sally Brunn to thank every time they use the Jersey Street facility. When the branch was threatened with closure in 1980 and again in 1988, Sally spearheaded the fight to keep it open. She also worked to raise money for the library's downstairs community room, so that residents would have access to it as a meeting place during hours when the library was closed.

As Blaustein explained, "Sally had an egalitarian approach. She believed that libraries are for everybody and should always be free."

Sally Brunn not only chaired the Library Committee for Friends of Noe Valley, but was a prime mover in three citywide organizations, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, Keep Libraries Alive, and the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. She could frequently be found in Sacramento or in the chambers of City Hall, lobbying legislators for her favorite cause.

John Brunn noted that a couple of years ago, "when \$300,000 was cut from the book budget, Sally lobbied the Board of Supervisors to restore it. It was the only item in the entire budget which was restored."

Her husband describes her as "a fighter who wasn't feisty," and Al Lanier echoes this assessment, saying she was "an activist who didn't behave like an activist." She was not interested in elected office or personal recognition, and her soft-spoken manner and good humor belied the traditional image of a political animal. But Sally's ability to talk with legislators and motivate grassroots volunteers made her a highly skilled and effective political practitioner.

Fortunately for the city's residents, Sally's activism was not limited to improving libraries. She also channeled her energy into the public schools. She helped found the Parents Lobby, a group that encourages San Francisco school parents to become more involved in the school district and provides parents access to the political process.

Jill Wynns, current president of the Parents Lobby, called Sally an "extraordinary person, who intuitively knew just what to do. And she was such a good person—she was nice to everybody and always so cheerful."

Wynns recounted a story that is emblematic of Sally's commitment. "Sally had trouble with her back and legs. At one point, she had a ruptured disc which she was supposed to take care of by laying in bed for weeks and weeks. After a while, she got tired of laying around and she had to go to a meeting. Since she

couldn't sit for very long, she would just lie on the floor and participate in the meeting that way!"

Wynns added that Sally was a leader in the grassroots campaign to pass Proposition B—a school facilities tax that was approved by the voters in June of 1990—as well as an active supporter of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. It was obvious to Wynns that "Sally cherished children—hers as well as everyone else's."

Sally's nurturing instincts also found expression in her home and throughout the city. She and her husband planted a backyard garden of flowers and herbs, and she was involved with the Friends of the Urban Forest and their neighborhood tree planting program. The trees that grace the perimeter of James Lick School on Noe Street are due to Sally's efforts and selection.

Beth Abrams, whose Grupo de la Comida feeds refugees from Latin America, recalls her shock when she learned that Sally had died. "She said she was going to fight the illness. She had such an incredible spirit, I thought she'd be able to." As a volunteer with Grupo, Sally had transported food "at the crack of dawn" from the Hard Rock Cafe to the Dolores Street Baptist Church.

One month before her death, Sally was feted at a "Celebrate Sally" party, which also served as a fundraiser for Friends of the Public Library. Political leaders from across the philosophical spectrum joined together to pay tribute to a woman who had never sought the spotlight, for her many years of selfless devotion to the city.

Following her death, a memorial gathering was held at the Noe Valley Library on Oct. 27. Jill Wynns said, "While I was arranging the furniture in the library for the memorial, I thought, Sally would have loved this—being at the library, bringing in flowers, working with friends—those were all things she enjoyed."

In November, Sally's friends and family began planning additional ways to honor her memory.

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library established a Sally Brunn Book Fund, which will purchase books on grassroots activism for the new Main Library. Donations should be sent to Friends of the Library, Sally Brunn Book Fund, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Maurice Englander, a former president of the San Francisco Library Commission, submitted a letter to the commission, asking that the Noe Valley branch at 451 Jersey St. be renamed the "Sally Brunn Memorial Branch."

For their part, the members of Friends of Noe Valley donated \$1,000 to the Noe Valley Library in Sally's name, for the purchase of new books. The group will also install a special plaque above the newly-christened "Sally Brunn Children's Room."

Miriam Blaustein recalls, "Someone once told Sally, 'You can't save the world by yourself,' and Sally just laughed." Maybe Sally Brunn didn't save the world, but with her gentle ways and loving heart, she certainly made it a much better place.

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## Fire Destroys Lower Floor of Isa's Hair Salon

An early morning fire raged through a well-known Noe Valley hair salon last month, causing extensive damage. Isa's Hair Studio, at 3836 24th St. near Vicksburg, sustained approximately \$100,000 in losses when a fire gutted the downstairs beauty supply section of the salon on Nov. 5.

According to San Francisco fire officials, the fire was caused by smoking materials placed in a trash can. The ashes apparently smoldered for five to seven hours before bursting into flames around 4 a.m.

An alert San Francisco police officer, Sergeant Tom Srock, who was passing by on his way from having coffee at nearby Happy Donuts, spotted smoke coming from the building and called the Fire Department.

Other police officers also responded to the fire. Three of them—officers Bud Massey, Mike Rivera, and Jean Etcheveste, all of Ingleside Station—broke down a door to the studio to see if anyone

was trapped inside. The officers then raced to an apartment at the rear of the building and evacuated a tenant and her cats.

Srock, who had been forced to retreat from the smoke because of an asthmatic condition, said he planned to recommend that the officers receive commendations for their actions.

According to Srock, at least three fire trucks were called to the scene, and it took about 30 minutes to extinguish the fire. The Fire Department classified the incident as a single-alarm fire. No one was hurt in the blaze.

Firefighters apparently went about their work very quietly. The next day, the shop's neighbors told salon owner Isa Muhawieh and his wife, Micky, that they had heard nothing the night before and that they were shocked that the fire had occurred without their being aware of it.

The Muhawiehs, who live in Vallejo, said they were called by police almost as soon as the fire was reported. They managed to arrive in Noe Valley less than an hour later, at 5 a.m.

"I just cried," said Isa Muhawieh, upon seeing the devastation. "I put eight years of my life into this business." (Isa's Hair Studio has been at its present location for six years. For the two previous years it was located a block away on Vicksburg Street.)

Muhawieh said he was hopeful that his upstairs hair-cutting studio, which suffered only smoke damage, would be back in operation by the end of November, but that it might take until the first of the year before the beauty supply shop downstairs could be reopened. Fortunately, his fire insurance will cover most losses to the business, Muhawieh said.

While picking up the pieces last month, the shop owner had nothing but praise for the way Noe Valley residents responded to the disaster. "I was impressed about how people came by and offered help and moral support," he said.

Muhawieh's chief regret is that he won't be able to send out holiday cards this year—his computerized card list was lost to the flames. □

## Plant Shop Owner John Winters Dies

By Steve Steinberg

Longtime Noe Valley merchant John Winters died this past Oct. 8, after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. Winters, 52, had owned The Planters Nursery at 3817 24th St. since 1974.

Winters entered Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco in early October, complaining of a severe headache. According to his niece, Belinda Dobbs, he went into a coma within two days, and died soon after being removed from emergency life support.

Winters had just returned from a Hawaiian vacation and was in excellent health, according to Dobbs.

Dobbs, who plans to take over the operation of the plant shop, said that her uncle's death was a shock to The Planters' customers. Many left the store in tears after learning of his passing, she said.

"I didn't know John intimately," said *Voice* co-publisher Jack Tipple, "but I was a customer of his, and we would always exchange hellos when I'd see him striding along Sanchez Street. He was the picture of energy and vitality."

Born in Amsterdam, Winters emigrated to the United States in the mid-1960s. He studied at Louisiana State University and then at the University of California, Berkeley, where he obtained a degree in horticulture. He bought the building and opened his business on 24th Street near Church soon after graduation.

A Jersey Street resident, Winters never regretted his move to the U.S., his niece said.

What Dobbs remembered most about her uncle was his sense of humor. "He was just a big clown," she said, "always cutting up and joking."

Dobbs also described Winters as a "very determined man," who lived life to the



The late John Winters, shown here with his mother, Johanna Maria Prins DeHAAS, operated The Planters Nursery on 24th Street for 17 years.

fullest. "I don't think anything would have stopped John from doing what he wanted."

Besides his niece, Winters is survived by his mother, Johanna Maria Prins deHAAS, who lives in Alabama; a sister, also an Alabama resident; and a brother, who lives in the Netherlands.

His ashes were scattered over San Francisco Bay on Oct. 11. □

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# Producer Heralds New Age Of 'Visual Music' Videos

By Jeff Kaliss

From his office and warehouse at Project Artaud, Valley Street resident Allan Kessler is keeping the shelves of stores such as Star Magic and Tower Video stocked with video visions of sugarplums, complete with aural accompaniment.

Kessler produces what have come to be called visual music videotapes—with subjects ranging from season's greetings, to the underwater sights and sounds of dolphins, to more abstract combinations of computer-generated animation and New Age electronic music.

The moustached Kessler attributes the boom in visual music to "lower and lower cost-production tools," such as the 8 mm camera used in Stuart Ellis' award-winning *Moving Paintings*. He also credits "the new professional digital video technology, where you can duplicate things without loss of signal." And there's the upgrading of home entertainment systems with larger, higher-definition television screens and high-fidelity reproduction.

Things were not so snazzy when Kessler first got involved in video as a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the early 1970s. Television's first portable camera, the Sony Portapak, had just come out, and Kessler and his colleagues used it to record dancers for an experimental program (they shot some sequences at the edge of nearby Walden Pond), on Boston's public television station, WGBH.

"There was [already] a whole history of visual music experimentation on film," Kessler points out. "The one that stands out to everybody is [Disney's] *Fantasia*, and certainly the film extravaganzas—the Busby Berkeley kinds of things."

But Kessler and his crew, Live Video Circus, had nothing like a Disney or Busby Berkeley budget. They got to

screen their work at coffeehouses, museums, and video art festivals, but Kessler held down a job with a computer company to pay his rent.

It was this day-job that first brought him to California in 1976, to manage the installation of information systems for a Sunnyvale business. When several of his video colleagues came out to put together a laser show for Bill Graham in 1977, he decided to stay out West. The next year, with partner Mark Allen, Kessler formed Pilot Video, headquartered at Noe and Valley streets, to develop visual music videos on a disc format.

"That was disco time," notes Kessler. "We had a piece called *Disco Doodles*, to go with any kind of disco music. . . . We had a fireplace piece, other kinds of ambient pieces. . . . and nature images, abstract images, and psychedelic images."

In the early days of Pilot, Kessler continued his computer work. He and Allen moved their company in 1981 to more spacious quarters at Project Artaud, at 17th and Alabama streets. A year later they scored their first big success when they assembled a collection of cutting-edge video work for release on disc by Thorn-EMI of Great Britain. The result was *California Images: Hi-Fi for the Eyes*, which three years later was licensed to Sony and distributed as a videotape.

But Sony, Kessler says, was more used to working with high-profile rock artists. "I didn't feel they knew what to do with it," he explains. "They could go to the mainstream music [retailers], but our strong point, we felt, was in alternative shops, like the Star Magics. And video wasn't out there yet in those places."

Kessler's preference in marketing was to "walk by a video store, and go into the



Valley Street resident Allan Kessler (center) is working to bring the shimmering video creations of artists such as David Fortney (left) and Marianne Dolan (right) into your livingroom. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

Continued on Page 11

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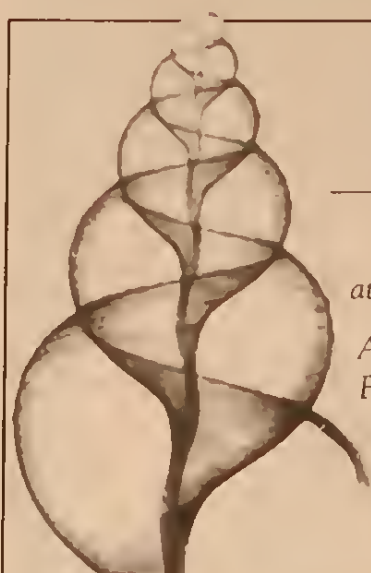
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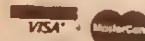
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# New Age Video Visions

Continued from Page 9

gift shop next door."

His personalized marketing approach attracted attention from a growing number of video artists who were hoping, as he once had, to make money from their visionary experimentation. So he finally quit his computer job, and in 1985 formed the ARK Group to explore and service new markets for his own and other's tapes.

In 1987, he created New Era Media as a label for his growing list of clients, whose projects included the *Wellness Series*, which utilized "positive imagery" to deal with stress, smoking, pain, depression, and weight problems, and *Prosperity*, which offered "dynamic, state-of-the-art visuals designed to reprogram the superconscious."

Pilot separated from ARK and New Era late last year, but Kessler has been kept busy visiting trade shows and marketing an expanding catalog.

Aside from such longtime customers as Star Magic on 24th Street and Tower on Market Street, "we have this outer space stuff, which is going into science museums and telescope stores. Then there's a whole area of nature images which go into the Nature Company and Natural Wonders stores."

To attract new buyers, Kessler notes, manufacturers have put more into packaging and promoting their products. A massage instructional tape comes with its own small bottle of oil. The video *America by Air* comes with a map, and *The Planets* includes a planet-spotting guide.

On less representational tapes, technological innovation continues. *Fractal Lumination*, set to the nebulous music of the Moody Blues, may well remind some consumers of the light shows of their psychedelic youth, but it's actually a com-

puter-controlled, geometrically-modeled animation resembling the multi-colored crystalline structures of natural objects. Marianne Dolan's *Structures from Silence* paints a lullaby with liquid, lava-like motion, to Steve Roach's translucent soundtrack.

This intricate interplay of music and sound can induce a pleasant synergy. "You might get a sense of space, or it might bring back a smell," notes Kessler. "If you can get those combined, you have something really powerful."

The importance of the music leads to "cross-promotion" between videotapes and compact discs which, when combined in gift sets, allow consumers to enjoy soundtracks when away from the screen. There's also a resurgence of interest in video discs, which resemble compact discs but are larger, require a special player, and allow for higher quality and more easily manipulated images. New Era has sublicensed all its titles for rerelease in that format—some titles even offer a choice between two soundtracks for the same visual.

The respectability of visual music as an art form has increased with its use as a therapeutic tool. Some hospitals, including Pacific Presbyterian, have programmed scenes of nature into their closed-circuit television systems.

The five-minute *It's in Every One of Us*, a humanistic collection of portraits from around the world, has become a favorite with religious organizations, schools, and motivational groups. And *Stationary Bicycling* encourages exercise by taking indoor peddlers through Big Sur, Death Valley, and the Sierra Nevada.

Getting all this to the public sometimes keeps the modest and soft-spoken Kessler scrambling 12 hours a day, seven days a week. But hopefully he'll be able to spend some holiday time at home this

## Gifts for the Ear As Well as the Eye

New Age video promoter Allan Kessler offers this holiday gift-giving list for videophiles:

☞ *Fantasia*. Though he doesn't distribute it, Kessler says the Disney classic "has sold more in the first week than any video ever," and is a sure bet.

☞ *The Mind's Eye*. Produced by Miramar of Seattle, this feast of fantasy has climbed to the top of Billboard's video sales chart. "It's done wonderfully: computer graphics, a weaving of many different images with an original soundtrack."

☞ *The Planets*. Electronic composer Isao Tomita has reworked Gustav Holst's 75-year-old symphonic poem and made it the musical background for an educational and entertaining trip through the solar system. "There are images from the Digistar system, which tracks the stars at any time and any location, and all kinds of multi-generation effects, trips through black holes, and that kind of thing."

☞ *Earth Dreaming*. Another Miramar production, with desert images by Georgianne Cowan, this video achieves "the blending of the human form with the natural form, using the sort of feminine earth spirit and Steve Roach's music, which was inspired by the aboriginal dream-time myth."

—Jeff Kaliss

year, basking in the glow of his television screen and *Contemporary Christmas Moods*, which he describes as "horses drawing sleighs, fireplaces, and wonderful Christmas trees, with a kind of upbeat, almost jazzy soundtrack." It's the least he deserves. ☐

## Panhandler Enters 6-month Drug Program

By Steve Steinberg

Controversial Noe Valley panhandler Gary Kappes has committed himself to a six-month, out-of-city residential drug rehabilitation program.

At a Nov. 1 hearing, a San Francisco Superior Court judge agreed to allow Kappes to enter a court-sanctioned drug treatment program in lieu of going to prison, for violating his parole following an April conviction on possession of heroin.

The name and location of the program were kept secret by the court in order to guard Kappes' privacy.

"He needs to be isolated from his old ways and habits if he's going to have a chance [at rehabilitation]," said Assistant District Attorney Louis Lipset, who handled the case.

The court also issued a stay-away order, forbidding Kappes from setting foot on 24th Street between South Van Ness and Diamond Street.

Kappes, whose frequent presence on 24th Street over the past two years has sparked both anger and sympathy, had his probation revoked this summer, after residents and merchants complained about his continuing drug use in and around the neighborhood.

He has been in police custody since July, pending a court decision on the case.

According to Lipset, Kappes will still face two more years of his original three years' probation once he completes the drug treatment program. Lipset added that the probation period could be extended to five years at the court's discretion.

Kappes could not be reached for comment, and his attorney, Mark Dalton, declined to say anything about the case. ☐

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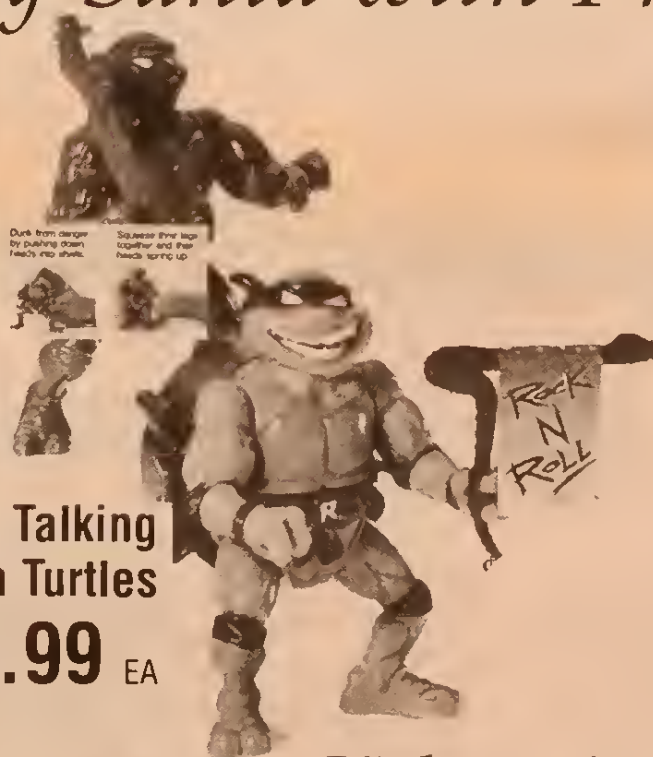
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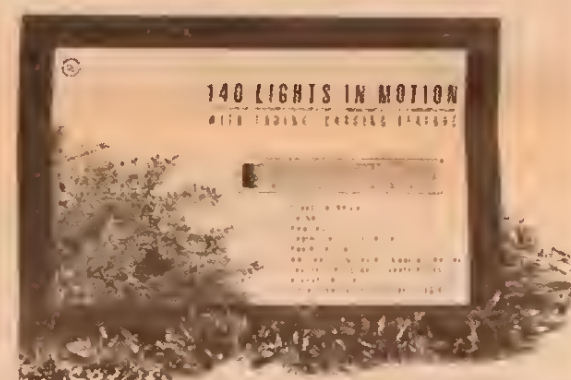
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## Sprucing up Noe Courts

A public meeting to discuss improvements for the Noe Courts playground will be held Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Latvian Church, 425 Douglass St.

Park users and neighbors are invited to help make decisions about two main issues: what type of bench, or benches, to install in the park, and what kind of barrier, if any, to erect around the children's sand area, located at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets.

According to Erica Green, head of the Noe Courts fundraising committee, suggestions for a barrier have included chain-link fencing, cyclone fencing, and shrubbery.

Community input is welcomed, and other park issues, such as park hours, may also be addressed at the meeting. For further information, call Green at 441-7272, extension 224.

## Here Comes Santa

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association is once again readying 24th Street for a few holiday visits from Santa Claus, who is coming in response to the club's express invitation, and who will be strolling up and down 24th as Christmas grows near. (Check store windows for flyers, to find out the exact times and places that Santa will appear.)

Each holiday season, the association contributes approximately \$1,500, says President Harry Aleo, to have light pole decorations, from Castro to Church streets, "put up, taken down, and stored all year."

This year, he says, "We'd like to get more and better decorations, and extend them further, all the way to Diamond and Vicksburg streets. Maybe some streamers, like they have downtown, from pole to pole. But that will depend on what we get in contributions from all the merchants, not just members of the association."

Aleo adds that the group is also working on finding carolers to stroll the streets

# SHORT TAKES



Noe Courts will be upgrading its playground and park facilities, and neighbors are encouraged to become part of the process at a Dec. 5 public meeting. PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA GREEN

this year, "especially some school kids." Call him at Twin Peaks Properties, 824-0872, if a-wassailing you will go.

## SOTA Shows Off

San Francisco's School of the Arts will hold an open house for all prospective students and their families on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Visitors will be able to tour the school, and meet with current students and faculty.

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is an alternative high school offering a four-year program in vocal and instrumental music, visual arts, actor training, theater technology, and dance and media arts production, supported by a college preparatory academic curriculum.

Admission to SOTA is through audition and interview. Applications for enrollment next fall will be accepted from Dec.

2, 1991, through March 31, 1992. SOTA is located at McAtter High School, 555 Portola Drive (at O'Shaughnessy).

If you'd like to see some SOTA students in action, they'll be presenting two concerts in December. On Friday, Dec. 6, KGO talk show host Ray Taliaferro will join the SOTA Wind Ensemble in a narrative and musical rendition of *The Night Before Christmas* in the SOTA Theatre. The evening will also showcase other ensembles and the SOTA Jazz Band, performing both classical and seasonal music.

On Friday, Dec. 13, the school will present its Winter Choral and Orchestra Concert, featuring choirs, orchestra, small ensembles, and soloists performing a wide range of music, from Renaissance to contemporary works.

Both concerts begin at 7:30 p.m., and tickets (\$6 for adults, \$4 for students and

seniors) can be purchased at the theater box office prior to performances. For further information, call 695-5720.

## Earthquake Training

Beginning in January, the San Francisco Fire Department will provide a second opportunity for Noe Valley residents to sign up for its Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) program.

The program, which was attended last spring by 20 Noe Valley residents, mostly members of the Upper Noe Neighbors, offers training in earthquake preparedness, firefighting, first-aid, search and rescue, and team response and management.

Participants learn how to provide emergency assistance to their neighbors and family following a disaster, and are better able to assist the Fire Department and other agencies.

The course consists of five, three-hour classes, which will meet on Wednesday evenings, Jan. 22 through Feb. 19, at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, located at Day and Sanchez streets. The cost is \$20 for class materials, hard hat, and vest.

To register, call Upper Noe Neighbors member Sue Bowie at 824-1062.

## Holly Near in Concert

Just prior to his untimely death last month, music promoter Bill Graham made a commitment to help out San Francisco's struggling public schools. So on Saturday, Jan. 18, the Bill Graham organization will honor his wishes, by presenting singer Holly Near and the Dance Brigade in a benefit concert for Buena Vista Elementary School.

The concert, which will start at 8 p.m. in the Mission High School auditorium, 3750 18th St., "is a great way to get money to the schools immediately, and also for the community to come together and celebrate with music," says Buena Vista fundraising coordinator Bonnie Bergeron.

*Continued on Page 15*

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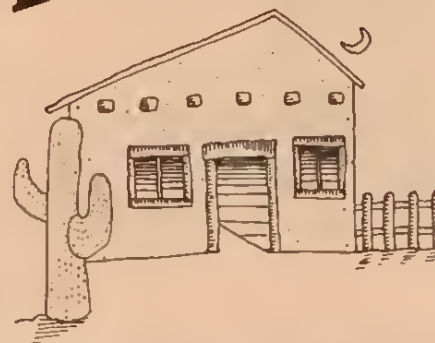
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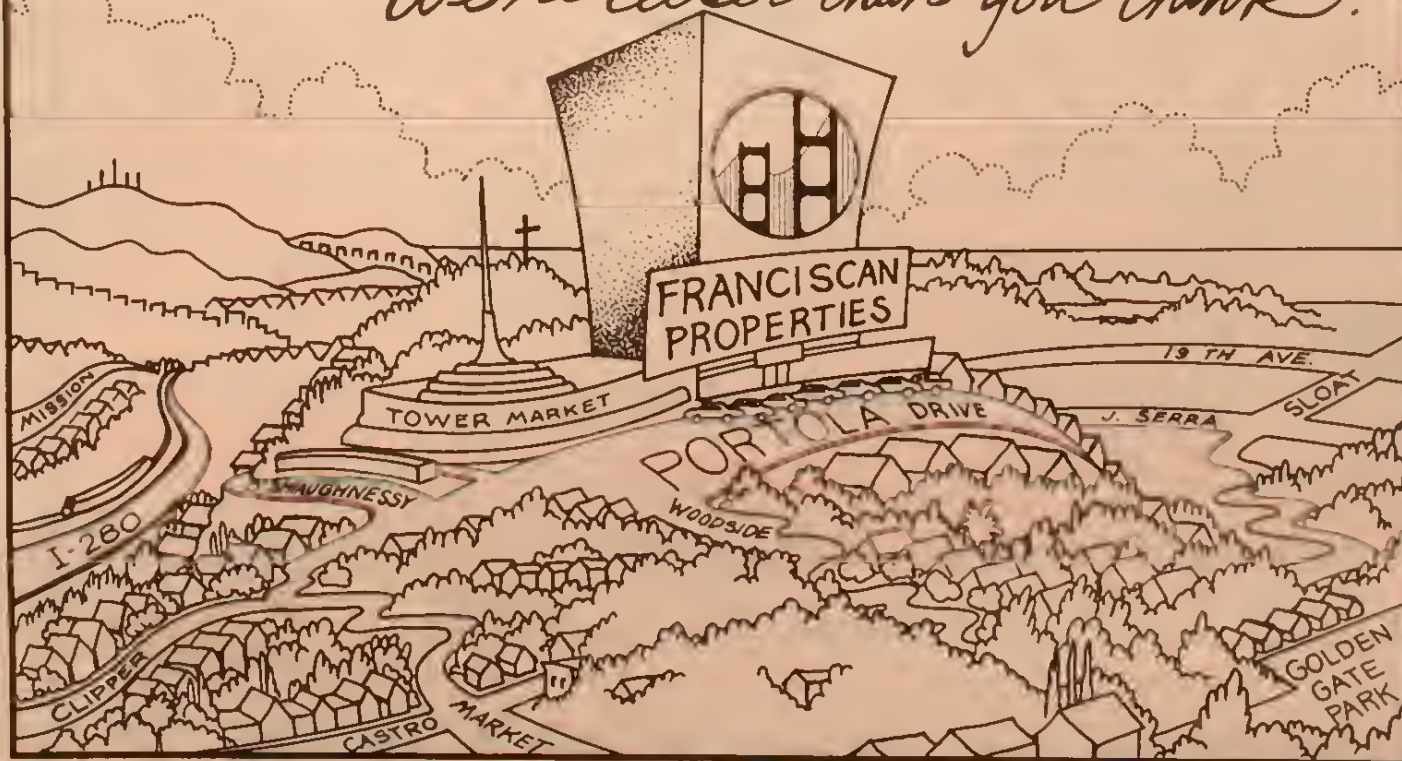
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Continued from Page 13

"And if this is a success, it could continue [at other schools in addition to Buena Vista] on a yearly basis, with other well-known artists participating."

Tickets (\$12 and \$15) are available at Cotton Basics, 1301 Castro St. (at 24th), Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., and at all BASS ticket outlets. For more information, contact Bergeron at 285-2003.

### The Advent of Prayer Wheels

From Sunday, Dec. 8, through Friday, Dec. 20, Gallery Sanchez will sponsor a "Prayer Wheels" show, in celebration of Advent.

Prayer wheels, according to gallery directors Kit Cameron and Phoebe McAfee, are "wheel-shaped mobiles which express our thoughts and concerns for ourselves, family, friends, community, and the world," during the period of preparation for Christmas, "a time of quiet, darkness, and reflection."

Anyone from the community is invited to enter the show. There is no entry fee, and all entries will be hung from the ceiling of the church sanctuary in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., where the gallery makes its home.

The wheels can be made of any media, but there is a size limit of 6 feet from the hanging point, and a weight limit of 5 pounds. Entries should be delivered to Gallery Sanchez, at the Ministry, on Saturday, Dec. 7, between 9:30 and 11 a.m., and must be picked up by Saturday, Dec. 21, between 2 and 5 p.m.

## SHORT TAKES



Joseph Tang is a student at San Francisco's School of the Arts (SOTA), which is hosting an open house and presenting holiday concerts this month. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

On Thursday, Dec. 5, Gallery Sanchez will also sponsor a prayer wheel workshop from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The evening will start "with soup and slides of some past wheels," notes Cameron. Participants can bring mementos, photos, and symbols of things to be included in their wheels. A small fee will be requested to cover the cost of materials. To register for the workshop, call 282-2317.

### Green City Pioneers

The Planet Drum Foundation, whose founder, Peter Berg, is a longtime Noe Valley resident, has recently organized a volunteer network for its Green City Project.

The network provides information on volunteer opportunities for people living in the Bay Area who want to do some hands-on environmental work, such as recycling, habitat restoration, gardening, tree planting, creek restoration, and wild animal care.

To sign up, give Planet Drum a call at 285-6556 and ask for Greg.

This month's Short Takes were compiled by Jane Underwood. □

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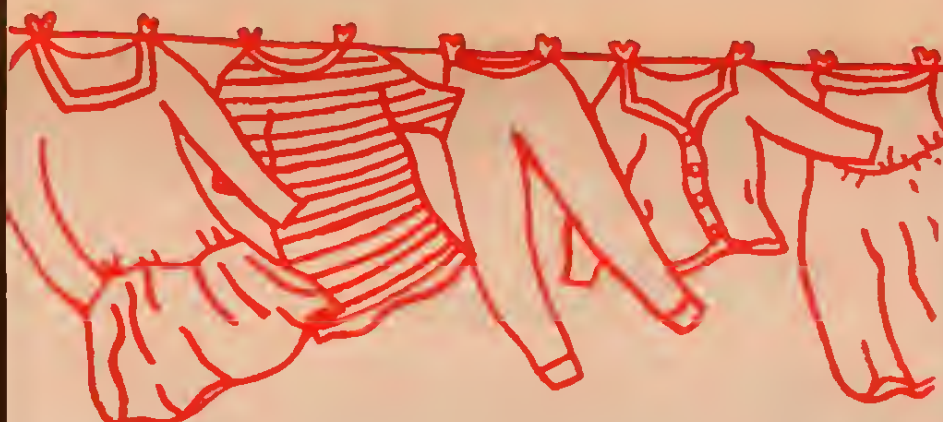
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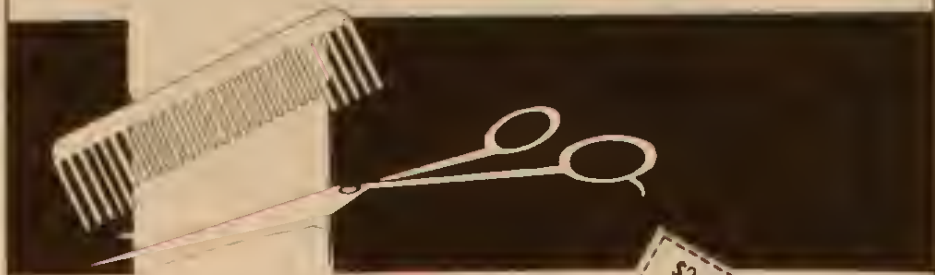
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PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

## Equal Opportunity Pie-Eating Contest

Gaetano Basso, owner of Noe's Grill at 24th and Church, wanted to "give something back to the community," so on Sunday, Nov. 24, he staged a bake-off and pie-eating contest on the sidewalk outside his restaurant.

Proceeds went to benefit the San

Francisco Firefighters Toy Program, now in its 41st year.

In attendance waiting to sample the many forms of pumpkin pie on display were a contingent from the local fire and police stations, and a large crowd of kids, parents, bakers, and passersby

enticed by the spectacle. Several old-fashioned fire trucks took kids for rides up and down 24th Street before the event started.

Diana Leonard's tasty maple pumpkin pie was the winner in the bake-off. And first place in the pie-gorging contest

went to fireman Andy Barren, of Engine Company 37. But the third-place finisher was a surprise—a contestant who had a lot of pie on *her* face as well as in it—San Francisco Police Officer Diana McKevitt.

—Beverly Tharp

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# You Don't Have to Join A Synagogue To Go to Hebrew School

By Laura Stuchinsky

"Mooooowww... Meeeeeee..."

Concentrating intently upon the home-made flash card his teacher is holding in front of him, 9-year-old Isaac Obenzinger intones the sounds of the Hebrew vowels he is memorizing.

Obenzinger is one of four students in a children's beginning Hebrew class at the Or Shalom Jewish Community Religious School. The newly founded program serves children of Jewish and interfaith couples (families with one Jewish parent) who have no ties to a synagogue but seek some form of Jewish education for their children. The Hebrew classes, which meet for two hours, one afternoon a week at the Noe Valley Ministry, began officially in September of 1991, but a number of the 13 students have been studying with Rabbi Pamela Frydman Baugh, the principal of the school, since as far back as 1988.

Baugh says she began tutoring the kids after she was approached by parent Betsy Strausberg, now president of Or Shalom. "Betsy was not affiliated with any synagogue, and she was looking for an alternative Jewish learning situation for her daughter.

"She said to me, 'If you don't start something soon, my daughter is going to lose interest [in Judaism].'" recalls Baugh. "So I talked extensively with several families to whom Betsy introduced me, until I finally realized that the temple-affiliated religious schools were not an option for these families, and that there was a need for education for the unaffiliated."

Baugh, then a rabbinical student (she was ordained in 1989), decided to tutor Strausberg's daughter privately, along with a group of seven other children that Strausberg helped to organize. And "as the months rolled by, the families involved invited other families," Baugh says, until membership grew to the point that "we founded Or Shalom."

Rev. Carl Smith, of the Noe Valley



The Or Shalom Jewish Community School, which convenes weekly at the Noe Valley Ministry, gives kids an opportunity to study Hebrew and Jewish culture, liturgy, and history. It's led by Rabbi Pamela Frydman Baugh (back row, second from left) and teacher Ida Lewis (at left, holding a drawing of the Star of David). PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

Ministry, who also perceived a need for outreach to interfaith couples, invited the Or Shalom Community to make its home at the Ministry building, located at 1021 Sanchez St.

"I don't know what else I would have done," says Hilton Obenzinger, when asked how he would have educated son Isaac if Or Shalom did not exist. "Perhaps I'd have attempted to do it by myself," he says, making clear his desire to give his child a Jewish education, despite his own alienation from the mainstream Jewish community.

"So much of my family was killed during the war [World War II] that I don't want to lose my cultural heritage." Finding a community that he felt would also welcome his Catholic Filipino wife, Estrella Habal, and be sensitive to interracial issues that Isaac would face, was equally important to Obenzinger.

Of the 20 families with children enrolled in the school, 75 percent are interfaith. Although commonly referred to as "Hebrew" school among many Jewish adults, the educational program, for children between the ages of 9 and 14, includes the study of Jewish holidays, culture, history, and liturgy, as well as Bible stories and Hebrew.

"At first I didn't know about Hebrew, so it was pretty weird," says 12-year-old Rio Roth-Barreiro. He is in the highest

level class, studying for his bar mitzvah next year. "But it's really interesting. You hear lots of stuff, lots of miracles."

Even though they attend only once a week, instead of the usual three times required by most temple-affiliated schools, students still have to make some sacrifices. "I tried out for the track team, but I had to quit because of Jewish class, and there's drama, which I'd really like to do, but it's on Wednesdays," says 12-year-old Maya Strausberg. "But this comes first. I've done this three years, and I wasn't going to quit now."

Strausberg's level of motivation isn't unusual. One of the primary rules of the school is that children may attend only if they want to—no coercion is allowed. "To a lot of us, Jewish background or not, being force-fed is one of the worst memories," explains board member Obenzinger. "Pam doesn't let any kid participate unless they absolutely want to."

"The only thing you teach with coercion is resentment of religion," agrees Baugh.

Although the focus of Or Shalom is primarily educational, families may also attend holiday and monthly *Shabbas* (Sabbath) services in Noe Valley. This fall, the community gathered together for High Holy Day services, with 150 people in attendance. Services are informal, participatory, and utilize a mixture of traditional and alternative prayers. In addition,

there are now monthly Sabbath classes for children, as well as Hebrew classes.

For Diane Sampson and husband Edward Koplowitz, who are both Jewish, the Or Shalom community has filled a need beyond the schooling it provides for their sons. "It was like a light going on," recalls Sampson. "For the last 15 years I hadn't gone to High Holy Day services. I hadn't felt any need to go. This year it felt so wonderful to look around and see people I know... on the board of directors, or who have kids in the school. I felt cared about and caring. A congregation of 3,000 wouldn't make it for me."

Although Or Shalom continues to grow, Baugh says that she doesn't see the community evolving into a synagogue. "For most people, Or Shalom is not an alternative to synagogue involvement, but an alternative to no religious affiliation whatsoever... a place where families can come and get a taste of Judaism and Jewish spirituality."

The Or Shalom Jewish Community is now taking new student applications for the 1992-93 academic year. There are openings for children ages 4 to 8, in the once-a-month Sabbath classes, and for children who will be 9 or 10 by October 1992, in the Hebrew school classes. For more information, call Diane Sampson, at 661-5466. □



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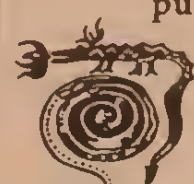
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# Historian Mae Silver Digs up José Noe's Past

By Melinda Breitmeyer

One day a couple of years ago, Twin Peaks resident Mae Silver made a trip to the local library to do some historical research about her neighborhood.

A New Jersey transplant, she was interested in the Mexican period of San Francisco history (1826–1846), because it was “such totally different terrain for me.”

But instead of spending a cozy afternoon in the library reading up on old San Francisco, Silver went home shaking her head. Her library visit had turned up almost nothing.

That's when she opted to become her own historian. Silver spent the next two years making the rounds of government records offices and historical libraries in the Bay Area, unearthing original documents from the period, some of which had to be translated from Spanish. The result is a slim volume titled *José de Jesus Noe, The Last Mexican Alcalde of Yerba Buena*, published last month and now on sale at Cover to Cover on 24th Street.

The word *alcalde* is Spanish for mayor, and José Noe was the last mayor of Yerba Buena, the town that was to become San Francisco. He was also, of course, the man after whom Noe Valley was named.

In researching, writing, and publishing the book, Silver not only wanted to satisfy her curiosity, but also to further several other causes dear to her heart.

As a neighborhood activist (she is parliamentarian for the Coalition for San



Two years of library and government document research enabled Corbett Avenue resident Mae Silver to put together a study of José de Jesus Noe, the 19th-century landowner and politician who gave his name to this neighborhood. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.

Francisco Neighborhoods, among other community involvements), the Corbett Avenue resident hoped to stimulate pride in the city's neighborhoods.

“I think if anything's going to save cities, it's people having pride in their own neighborhoods. The more times that's repeated over the city, the more a city's going to improve.” Silver likens digging into the past of one's neighborhood to Alex Haley's finding his *Roots*.

Silver also wanted to correct the historical record vis à vis the *Californios*,

the Mexicans who lived here prior to the U.S. acquisition of the state. A former social worker, she notes, “I know about victims and second-class citizens, and I'm very sensitive to prejudice when I read it.”

She had discovered that many of the accounts written after the Gold Rush were tainted by the bias of the Americans who had superceded the *Californios*. “The Mexicans were described basically as large children parading around in colorful costumes, good at horseback rid-

ing, gambling, having large families, and little else,” Silver says.

And some history books completely overlooked the Mexican period. “The advent of the Gold Rush in San Francisco not only stopped the *ranch* period overnight and dispensed with the culture, but all the history got focused on the Gold Rush.” So Silver set out to fill in the gap, at least in her own neighborhood's record.

Early on in her search, she discovered José de Jesus Noe, a Mexican immigrant who had arrived in Yerba Buena in 1839. At that time, the fledgling town was a distant Mexican outpost, a trading colony of about 200 people, most of whom lived in what is now the Financial District and Chinatown, with the town plaza located in what is now Portsmouth Square. The main trading goods were tallow and hides, products of the cattle raised on *ranchos* outside the town's limits.

José Noe would become, in 1845, the owner of Rancho San Miguel, an enormous plot of land covering over 4,000 acres in what was then cattle-grazing country southwest of the town. The Noe Valley of today was just a small part of his spread. In today's San Francisco it would stretch from the Haight-Ashbury in the north to just past the border of Daly City in the south, and from Mission Street and San Jose Avenue in the east to Junipero Serra in the west. (See accompanying map.)

But aside from the location of his *ranch*, little was written about José Noe in the history books. Silver was able to trace his steps through the historical records to a group of Mexican settlers known as the Hija and Padres Colony, a band of about 200 who started on the arduous journey from Mexico City to California in 1834.

Silver describes how the hardships of their journey (she had to calculate and draw her own map of their route, which appears in the book) led the colonists to split up into several groups, some of which stayed in Southern California. She speculates that Noe and his family were

*Continued on Page 23*

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# Local Historian Explores the Life and Times of José Noe

Continued from Page 21

among those who ended up settling near Sonoma in 1835, although four years later he was living in Rancho Las Pulgas ("Flea Ranch"), in what is now San Mateo County.

At that time Noe petitioned the California governor for a land grant near Yerba Buena, centered around what is now 15th and Mission streets, so that he could cultivate vegetables "for the support of his family," who were "now in the most indigent circumstances."

These circumstances soon improved. Noe was granted the land he had requested (he called it "Las Camaritas" or "Little Cabins"), and began a successful farming venture. Politically his fortunes were also on the rise. He became *juez de paz* (justice of the peace) of Yerba Buena in 1840. Over the next few years, Noe assumed other civil posts, including that of assistant *alcalde*. He bought land in the town, including some choice lots right on Portsmouth Square, and built several houses on the various properties.

In the book, Silver gives a colorful account of the life of the town, Noe's civil duties, and even some of the cases that appeared before him. There is one unforgettable description of Noe by a visiting American, Joseph Downey.

Downey finds Noe seated on the porch of his house in Portsmouth Square, "a bad imitation of a New England cottage, drawing away at a cigarrito from morn till night, the big gun of the village—the major domo—Alcalde, and Juez de Paz, Señor Don José Jesus de Noe [name reversal is Downey's], as fair, full and radiant a specimen of beef-fed Californian as ever was put on exhibition. Heaven bless his portly figure and round, rosy cheeks."

Although Noe was never appointed chief *alcalde*, he became acting *alcalde* when Alcalde José Sanchez left him in charge in 1846.

The year before, Noe had been granted Rancho San Miguel by the governor of California. But despite the prospect of a fortune to be made in cattle, and his family having expanded to four children, Noe and the rest of the *Californios* were now to be confronted with events that would change their destinies for the worse.

In April of 1846, news came from Sonoma that John Charles Fremont had captured that town. Fremont had blazed into peaceful, pastoral California with a ragtag "army" of surveyors and trappers, a sort of advance task force for the American takeover of California. Their taking of Sonoma was the first, if unofficial, act

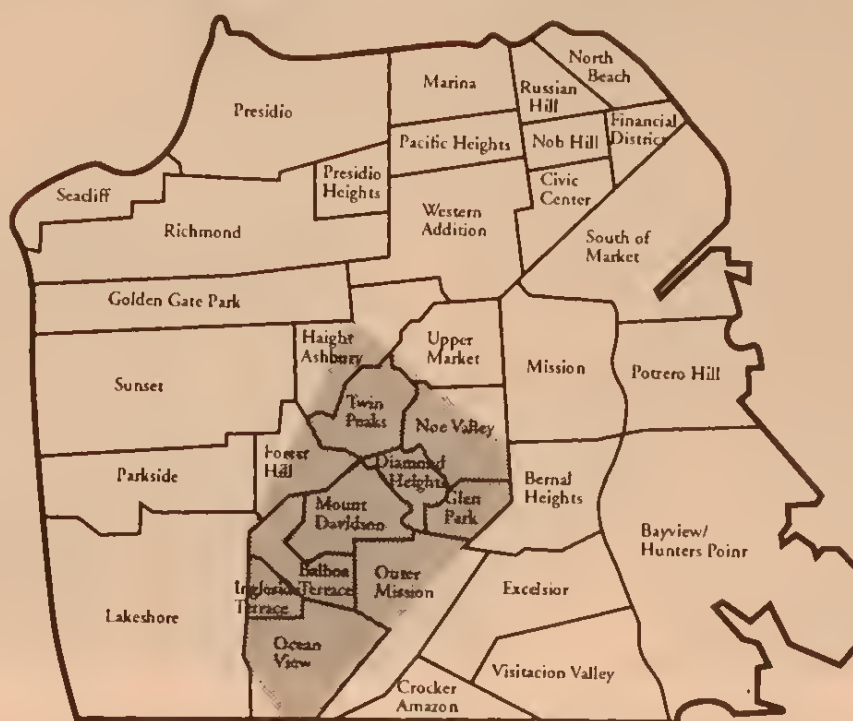
of the Mexican-American War (1846–1848). Now, the message from Sonoma went on, Fremont was on his way to Yerba Buena "to arrest all public officials."

José Noe, who must have considered himself unlucky to be acting *alcalde* at that moment, decided not to stick around. "Making the best of a bad bargain," a witness recounted, "[Noe] ran away as fast as his horse would carry him," to his home in Rancho San Miguel.

Long and serious battles were fought in Southern California and parts of Mexico, but the bloodless and somewhat hilarious events that characterized the American takeover of Yerba Buena ended



This is one of the few surviving pictures of José Noe, the last mayor of Mexican Yerba Buena. PHOTO COURTESY OF SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES



The shaded area on this map, reproduced from Mae Silver's book, shows the vast Rancho San Miguel, which was granted to José Noe by the Mexican government in 1845.

quickly.

An election for *alcalde* of Yerba Buena was held soon after the takeover, and José Noe came in second, barely losing to an American, who received 66 votes to Noe's 63. But during the unsettled period that followed, Noe seems to have kept a low profile.

He did, however, pursue his legal claim to Rancho San Miguel under the U.S. Land Commission. (The victorious Americans had declared that previous land ownership under Mexico would be honored.) Nevertheless, according to a friend, Noe remained "intimidated" by Yerba Buena's new political regime.

In Silver's view, this feeling was understandable, considering the callous treatment the more genteel *Californios* received at the hands of the 49ers. One historian of the time noted that "the class

of people which came here was not such as they had been accustomed to. They were rough and uncouth, inclined to treat every Mexican family with disrespect, to class them with low-born greasers whose privacy was to be invaded at all times and at all hours."

Noe's claim to Rancho San Miguel was finally settled in his favor in 1857, one of the last cases to be decided. But like many Mexican landowners, Noe had already been forced to sell off much of the land to pay for legal expenses.

While he was waiting for his case to be concluded, Noe's wife, Guadalupe, died in 1848. (She is buried in Mission Dolores, where a stone in the floor names her and two daughters, who died in 1853 and 1861. Noe himself is not named.) That year he sold a valuable lot in Portsmouth Square, and other of his land hold-

ings soon followed.

Noe probably sold Rancho San Miguel in piecemeal fashion, although the documents found by Silver do not make the transactions completely clear. What is certain is that within a few years, where cattle had grazed, subdivision of the land and real estate developments were generating large profits for American investors.

Aside from his land transactions, little further is recorded of José Noe, except for some entries in the San Francisco city directories. Although not listed in earlier editions, in the volume for 1861–62, he and his daughter Dolores are listed for the first time, as "dwelling on old San Jose Road."

In 1862, José de Jesus Noe died.

Silver has produced a book that is a comprehensive study of our neighborhood's forebears. But a few mysteries remain.

One is the exact location of Noe's home in Rancho San Miguel. Where did Noe live on that grand cattle spread? He reportedly built a house costing \$30,000, which in those days would have been a fortune.

Silver is still trying to find out, and she hopes to publish the answer in a book on the next chapter in the neighborhood saga. "History is ongoing, you never reach the end," she says.

Spreading a map of present-day San Francisco out on the floor of her study, she carefully places on top of it a clear acetate reproduction of the official 1857 map of Rancho San Miguel, which has been enlarged to the same scale as the modern map. (A reduced version appears in the book.)

She points out Laguna Honda Reservoir on the old map, also Mission Dolores and San Jose Avenue. They coincide almost perfectly with their present-day locations on the bottom map.

Now she points out a tiny square on the old map which reads "Site of Noe's First House," and excitedly shows that underneath, it corresponds to a location of approximately 21st Street, between Douglass and Grand View. Was this the site of the expensive ranch house?

The thought of the continuing hunt lights a gleam in her eye. "History is a lot of fun," she says with a grin. □

Mae Silver will be speaking and showing slides on her book at 7 p.m. on Jan. 30, 1992, at the Gate House at Fort Mason. For more information on this or other of Silver's speaking engagements, call 626-1072.



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## Astrologers Say 2 Planets Have Us in a Spin

By Denise Minor

When the moon is in the seventh house, or thereabouts, and Uranus aligns with Neptune, then revolution will guide the planets and dramatic changes will rule the stars. At least that's the take some local astrologers have on how the heavens are lining up for 1992.

"We are approaching the beginning of a new 171-year-long Uranus/Neptune cycle," says Nicki Michaels, the Duncan Street stargazer who drew up Ronald and Nancy Reagan's horoscopes. "Uranus is the planet of revolution, and Neptune is the planet of dissolution. They both rule the masses."

And it is no coincidence, she adds, that as these two planets have drawn closer together, the world has seen such momentous events as the break-up of the Soviet Union, the war in the Persian

Gulf, and the decline of the U.S. as the top economic power.

Uranus and Neptune will be particularly close together at the time of the next U.S. presidential election, and Michaels is anxious to see what influence that might have on the political scene. Until recently, she says, President George Bush was considered a shoo-in for a second term, but economic and domestic problems may have weakened his standing.

"Just as the Soviet Union went through a dramatic shift in power, it could happen here as well," she says.

Michaels is currently writing an astrology book for the general public, and developing an astrology column for a local newspaper. She spoke last month at the National Astrology Conference in San Francisco, and will give a presentation this April at the United Astrology Congress in Washington, D.C.

Astrologist Ruhama Veltfort of Sanchez Street has been studying the same Uranus/Neptune cycle from a different point of view—technology and its influence on the evolution of society.

"We are at the end of a cycle that began in 1821 with the advent of steam energy, then peaked in the early years of the 20th century with the invention of the automobile and the radio," says Veltfort. "That cycle is coming to an end, and we are seeing the limitation of what people once thought would be the answer to all our problems—technology."

Veltfort has been practicing professionally as an astrologer for 15 years, offering consultations to an average of 10 clients a month. She also writes fiction and articles for publications such as *Dell Horoscope*.

In early November, she completed an article in which she predicted that the

*Sanchez Street astrologer Ruhama Veltfort says we're on the cusp of the 171-year Uranus/Neptune cycle—which could lead to a dramatic breakthrough in new energy sources. Her cat Marsha agrees.*

end of this Uranus/Neptune cycle would precipitate a monumental transformation in energy sources, and that the first step would be the harnessing of nuclear energy. She was pleased, therefore, to read in the Nov. 11 *San Francisco Chronicle* that a great stride had been made by researchers in England toward the development of fusion energy.

"Something is beginning, is opening up right now," observes Veltfort. "In some ways this is just like 1821. We are in the same position, the same beginning of a cycle that people were in then."

Astrologer Bradley Dehner, a former Real Food Co. employee and still a frequent visitor to Noe Valley, agrees with Veltfort. "We are coming into a very important time period for the world as a whole," he declares. "During this time, the equinoxes and solstices are particularly powerful. The Oakland fire happened just before the equinox. The earthquake in the Philippines happened just after. The earthquake of '89 in San Francisco also happened close to the equinox."

Such catastrophic changes filter down into people's lives, says Dehner, and prompt many to turn to astrologers and therapists in an attempt to understand their meaning.

Dehner, an artist who does watercolor and charcoal works portraying "metaphysical concepts," believes that, in the coming decade, the world's cataclysmic events will transform people spiritually, making those previously unaccepting of astrology more open to it.

Fair Oaks Street resident Renee Lewis, an attorney who as a child was introduced to astrology by her mother, echoes the same sentiment. "Saturn, which has been in Capricorn, is now in Aquarius, and will be for the next two and a half years. Aquarius is ruled by Uranus, which is in turn the ruler of astrology."

All this translates, according to Lewis, into "more acceptance of the use of astrology in all walks of life, such as business and politics."

Capricorn is a conservative sign, but the coming of Aquarius, with its rebellious and individualistic tendencies, will

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Renee Lewis, of Fair Oaks Street, is one of a new breed of "humanistic" astrologists who encourage clients to view their horoscope as a tool for personal growth.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

influence many people to be more open to "New Age" thinking.

Astrologist Lynn Werner of Glen Park notes that in Noe Valley, not much consciousness-raising is needed to pique people's interest in astrology. "Noe Valley has a higher awareness of alternative ways of thinking," she says. "People here are more willing to accept astrology than in some other areas of the city."

For 15 years Werner has practiced humanistic astrology, an approach developed in the 1970s that views astrology as a psychological rather than a predictive tool. "In reading a person's chart, I relate to that person's energy," she says.

Werner has a background in counseling, and has been "delving into all kinds of metaphysical things" since she was an adolescent. At the age of 16, she knew that spiritual questing would be a way of life for her when she began reading a book by reincarnationist Edgar Cayce, just before a vacation to Florida with her parents. When the family arrived in Florida, they unknowingly took a motel room right across the street from the Edgar Cayce Foundation.

"Ever since then I knew that the metaphysical would be important in my life," Werner says.

Michaels also practices humanistic astrology, and is in the process of collaborating with a therapist in writing an

astrology textbook about astrologer Dane Rudhyar, one of the founders of the humanistic school of thought.

She was at first reluctant to make any predictions for the upcoming year because her emphasis, like Werner's, is on understanding the various potentials for life as revealed in a chart.

Veltfort, too, prefers this approach. "I'm interested in helping people to understand the past and present," she says. "Most people experience life as just a bunch of stuff happening. They're disconnected from cause and effect."

"In our urban centers, we're disconnected from the natural rhythms of the earth. Our ideas of cycles are the changing television seasons."

But through the study of the cycles of the sun, the moon, the planets, and their effects on human beings, Veltfort maintains, a person can begin to understand the cycles in his or her own life.

Even though astrology is based on a scientific calculation of the planets' positions at the exact minute of a person's birth, Veltfort considers it to be not so

much a science as an art. I think of astrology as a symbolic language, a system of metaphors about the self that can put a person more in touch with the intuitive center."

Lewis, too, uses astrology mainly as a way to self-understanding. "Astrology is a great tool for personal growth and for discovering talents," she says. "It can tell you the tone of things in your life. What it can't tell you is if you're going to move to Los Angeles in December."

Clients who go to Lewis for a reading might want to take advantage of her skills as a certified hypnotherapist. "I can put people into a light trance if they want," she says. "When they're in that state, I might ask them questions to help clarify their goals."

Lewis often counsels people who are going through mid-life crises and looking for a new direction. The crises, she believes, stem partly from the fact that people in mid-life are often developing beyond what is shown on their natal charts. "People progress," she explains. "For instance, just looking at the sun

sign, an Aries progresses into the sign following it, which is a Taurus."

Lewis and all the other astrologers interviewed here can do various types of charts, including natal, "progressions," "transits," and special relationship charts. Their reading fees range from \$30 to \$200, depending on length and complexity, and Werner also offers a \$25 12-to-15-page computer printout that explains a person's natal chart.

Another Noe Valley resident, Patricia Dines, offers a service especially for people already knowledgeable about astrology—she'll run out easy-to-read charts (\$10 for the first, \$5 for each additional printout) on her Macintosh computer. Hand-calculated charts, she explains, are much more time-consuming to do, and thus more expensive.

If you'd like to start off the New Year with some astrological insight, give your friendly neighborhood astrologer a call: Ruhama Veltfort, 282-2939; Renee Lewis, 647-8366; Nicki Michaels, 821-7070; Lynn Werner, 334-0258; Bradley Dehner, 771-9273; Patricia Dines, 641-8104. □

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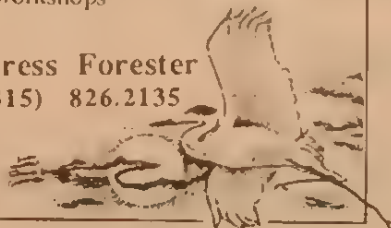


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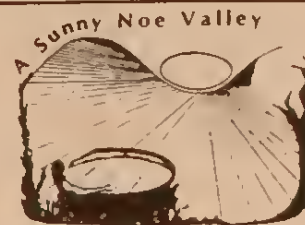
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**Holiday Pole Vaulting:** It's hard to see the trees for the transformers. But the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association will again be climbing the poles to put up Christmas decorations on 24th Street this year. To give the group a hoist, call Harry Aleo at 824-0872. (See Short Takes, page 13.) PHOTO BY ED BURYN

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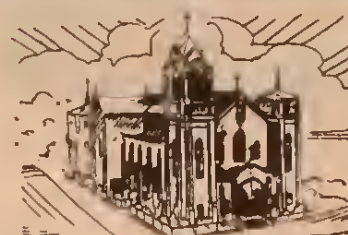
SUNDAY DEC 8 7:00 PM  
FRIDAY, DEC. 20, 6:15–7:00 PM  
SATURDAY, DEC. 21,  
9:00 AM–2:00 PM  
SUNDAY, DEC. 22, 6:30 PM  
TUESDAY, DEC. 24, 7:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY DEC 25 10:00 AM  
TUESDAY, DEC 31 7:00 PM

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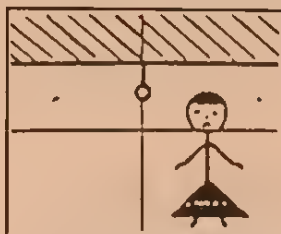
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1250 Haight St.	11 am	3030 Judah at 36th Ave.	10:30 am

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### SHUT-OUT?



# St. Philip's & Holy Innocents Welcome New Pastors

By Steve Steinberg

Two new pastors have begun ministering to the spiritual needs of local residents at a pair of Noe Valley churches.

Michael Healy took over on July 1 as priest in charge of St. Philip's Catholic Church at Diamond and Elizabeth streets. He replaces Tom Regan, who retired after 25 years as pastor of the church. Father Regan will remain in the parish, however, and will continue to celebrate mass and perform other sacraments.

Father Healy, 46, who has served in various parishes in the San Francisco Archdiocese, brings 21 years of experience to his new assignment.

Born in Cork, Ireland, Healy says he first heard the call to become a priest when he was 18, "but it had always been in the background." He studied at Dublin's All Hallows Seminary, which is famous for supplying priests to parishes all over the English-speaking world—including many to San Francisco in the early part of the century.

In 1970, Healy was asked by the then-archbishop of San Francisco to come to the city to begin his religious career.

Prior to coming to St. Philip's, Healy was pastor of All Souls Church in South San Francisco. After a five-year tenure there, he decided to take a few months off to participate in a theological renewal program in Rome. It was then that the rectorship of St. Philip's fell vacant. Feeling in need of a "new challenge," Healy accepted the position.

As St. Philip's new priest, Healy hopes to build upon the work of Regan, but will naturally bring his own perspective to the job. He would like to "involve more people" in helping those in need, and create an expanded Catholic community at St. Philip's, which he notes is currently the smallest parish in San Francisco.

Since arriving in Noe Valley, Healy says he has been "amazed" by the friendliness and community spirit of the neighborhood. "I feel very much at home," he says.

A few blocks away at 455 Fair Oaks St. near 25th Street, Armand Kreft recently took over the helm of Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. Kreft was elected vicar for life by the church membership in October. He replaced Catherine Roskam, who left to take on new church duties with the Episcopal Diocese.

Kreft, 43, is new to the clergy, having just been ordained last year. He says that entering the priesthood is something he has wanted to do since the age of 16, but in the 1960s he became "caught up" in the social activism of the time, and dropped out of college to participate in various causes.

It wasn't until he was in his mid-30s that Kreft was able to return to school. He obtained a B.A. from New College of California, and then went on to study at the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, where he received a master's degree in 1987.

In the years before entering the clergy, Kreft supported himself by working in the administrative and marketing departments of various corporations. Because his pastorate is only a part-time position, he still works in an administrative capacity for a law firm. His hope is that someday Holy Innocents will grow sufficiently in membership—right now there are about 60 people in the congrega-

tion—to allow him to be a fulltime vicar in the church.

Although Episcopal priests are permitted to marry, Kreft is single and has lived on nearby Dolores Street for the past 11 years. He is originally from Burlingame.

The church to which Kreft comes is a historic one, having celebrated its 101st anniversary this year (see the July 1991 issue of the *Voice*). The pastor reports that even though the 1890 edifice was seriously damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, it now sports a new roof and has been completely repaired.

Kreft emphasizes that he is "really committed" to the Mission and Noe Valley communities, and wants Holy Innocents to be the kind of parish church whose doors are always open "to the diverse lifestyles and cultures" of the area. "Everyone is welcome here." □



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Saturday	21 December	3:00 pm	Bi-Lingual

No confessions 21 December at 4:00 pm or Christmas Eve.

### Christmas Candlelighting Service

Thursday	19 December	7:30 pm (church)
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### Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve	24 December	5:00 pm (children, English)
		8:00 pm (Vigil, English)

### Misa De Gallo A La Medianoche

Bilingual

Christmas Day	25 December	8:00 am (English)
		9:30 am (English)
		11:00 am (English)
		12:30 am (English)

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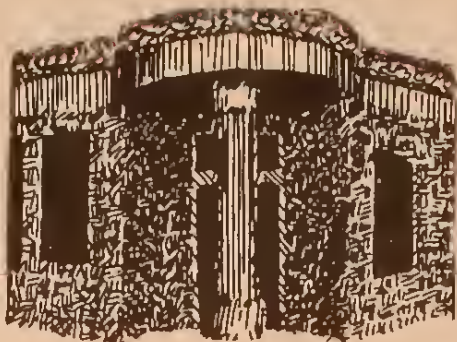
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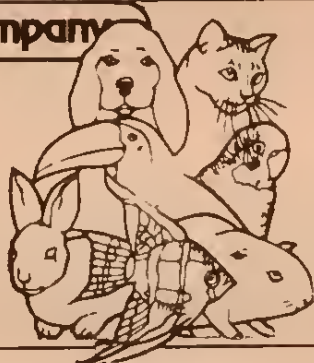
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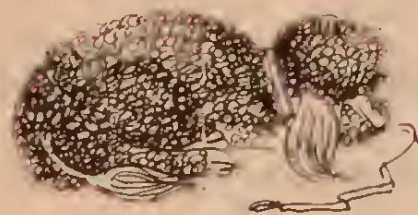




## FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

### A Shaggy Dog Story



The stray dog who wandered up our steep hill 10 years ago was a pitiful looking creature with thick gray matted fur, head hanging low, and a slow ponderous pace. Our mailman offered this undocumented bit of lore: "Old dogs always come to the top of a hill to die." This statement, as well as his appearance, reinforced the already sympathetic inclination of the residents of our block, and since we didn't know what to call him, my husband Leo dubbed the canine Underdog.

Our neighbor, the late Janet Pera (a tenderhearted animal lover), was the first to put out a bowl of water, and with this small act of kindness, the dog settled into the life of our street. During the ensuing days, bowls began to appear on doorsteps up and down the block, and as Underdog made his daily rounds, his steps became quicker and his head was held higher. It became apparent that he was not about to die.

At first he slept in the open carports below the apartments at Church and 21st streets, until driven away by nocturnal headlights. Gradually he gravitated to our house, sleeping on the front porch where we had placed a blanket for him. Strangely, he never barked, although our old dog Fred, who was pretty indignant, barraged him with furious "yaps" through the cracks around the front door.

Underdog remained so silent that we wondered if he was mute. But perhaps this trait had allowed him to survive as a street dog—he looked like he had been wandering for some time.

At first, he allowed no one to touch him. Whenever a contact gesture was made, he retreated backwards, just out of reach. After days of vocal reassurance, however, Leo was able to touch him, and slowly the dog responded. Then he allowed Janet to pet him, but she fled home in tears, crying, "The poor animal has lumps all over him!" This was true, but fortunately the lumps turned out to be just big clumps of matted fur, which Leo set about getting rid of.

Each day on our front stairs, he struggled with comb and brush to dislodge the tangles, but it was a hopeless effort. The combings did improve the shaggy fellow's appearance, however—and, we hoped, his chances of finding a home. But we were not nearly as concerned about his coat as we were about his neck, because strays were picked up regularly by the Animal Control van. To help Underdog avert this fate, a local telephone network sprang up, with the neighbors pursuing every possible lead in hopes of finding a haven for this homeless hound—before the dogcatcher caught up with him.

Just when we had almost given up hope, our neighbor Rhea, the widow who lived across the street, informed us that she was considering taking the dog. It didn't take long—all she had to do was look into his trusting eyes. The rapport was mutual, and the decision to take him home was made.

The next day, in celebration, the four of us—Rhea, Leo, myself, and Underdog—went to the groomer, who offered his expert opinion. He said that Underdog was in excellent health, was accustomed to being groomed, and was only

perfect white teeth through which an amusing pink tongue hung out. He had become so elegant, in fact, that Rhea renamed him Jacques.

Jacques had a delightful way of welcoming his human friends. He would exuberantly bound into the air, five feet or more, again and again. Whether Rhea had been gone for five minutes or five hours, she got the same joyful reception. Conversely, whenever young men walked up 21st Street, Jacques, from behind the



about three years old. As to his breed he was less certain, but he judged him to be a schnauzer. Because of the heavy matting, the groomer estimated that Underdog was carrying six months of neglect on his back, so he clipped him down to the skin, but left the traditional schnauzer moustache.

We chose a red collar and leash, then Rhea took him home to his new life as a pampered house dog. He proved to be adaptable, intelligent, housebroken, and musical! This was important because Rhea had shared musical evenings with her late husband Ted—she at the piano and he on the flute. It had come as a delightful surprise one evening, as Rhea played at the keyboard, to hear her pet raise his voice in a high-pitched, lilting accompaniment. After that, they often performed together. Rhea became convinced that he preferred French music, so she usually chose Debussy or another French composer for their duets.

On Underdog's second visit to be clipped, the groomer stated firmly, "This dog isn't a schnauzer after all, he's a standard gray poodle," and proceeded to give the appropriate clip, complete with top knot. Underdog was now a sturdy, fine-looking animal with a long thin tail ending in a plume, and

wrought-iron gate, would bark them angrily out of sight—perhaps sparked by memories of earlier mistreatment.

Rhea, like so many widows, had been left with an empty home and terrible loneliness. But Jacques changed all of that. A beautiful relationship developed between them as they became a familiar sight walking around the hilltop—the lady and her gray poodle. On their daily outings, they met other people walking their dogs, and a whole new social life evolved for Rhea during the following months, until illness struck. Then various neighbors, or Rhea's nurse, took turns walking Jacques.

Upon Rhea's death, the neighborhood was spurred into action once again, expanding the network until it extended along the Peninsula. One man came from Woodside, but alas, he had a larger dog in mind. Then a tiny lady who had once raised poodles came by. She led Jacques back and forth on the lead, he performed to her satisfaction, and she took him home with her. Within a few days he was leaping happily into the air, she reported, and in a few weeks he was singing as she played the piano.

We thought all was well, but she phoned not too long after that, to say

she was obliged to return him, upon doctor's orders, because he was too large for her to handle. This was apparent when I arrived at her apartment to pick him up. In recognition, he jumped up and down explosively, and nearly knocked his frail mistress down.

Our neighbor Janet then found a new mistress for Jacques, and so for a few months the late Alice King, who worked at the Bank of America on 24th Street, could be seen walking a gray poodle around the neighborhood. But Jacques, for some strange reason locked away in his memory, was unable to accept Alice's grown son, so she was forced to return him.

Undaunted, we put together an illustrated flier and posted it everywhere, including the open-air flower shop operated by Barbara and Louis Bischoff, located next to Aquarius Records. The flier caught the attention of the owner of Aquarius, Butch Bridges. Butch was familiar with poodles because his mother had always had one, so when he saw Jacques, he was impressed.

At their arranged meeting, Jacques was trembling from a disquieting day of unexpected changes, but when his prospective owner knelt to reassure him, he calmed down. Butch then led him home to a new and more athletic lifestyle. In keeping with this new lifestyle, he altered his dog's name to Jock. There was a change in the music, too. Instead of French classical, it became strictly rock 'n' roll.

During a short period of adjustment, Jock barked his benefactor from room to room, but the response he received was only one of kindness, patience, and firmness, until he recognized this young man as a friend. In a few days, Jock was leaping into the air joyously every time his master returned. They became constant companions, and could often be seen walking or jogging around 26th and Church streets. They tended the store together, made business calls with Jock sitting regally in the back seat of Butch's foreign sports car, and even went shopping on 24th Street.

I met them one day during the Christmas rush, and Butch told me, "Jock's getting along fine, everybody loves him—even the old cat accepts him—and he's transferred completely to me." Then, proudly, "He's a good dog!"

Butch and Jock had three great years together, but then Jock fell ill, and when his vital organs stopped functioning properly, his master performed the last act of kindness—he held his dog in his arms as the doctor put him to sleep.

Jock is buried in Marin County, close to a house near a wooded area, where he and Butch used to wander on weekends.

As Christmas approaches, I am reminded of the joy we all felt for the good fortune of our furry friend—Jock, alias Jacques, alias Underdog. □

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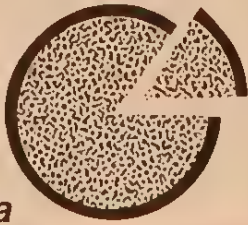


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The library is open Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. For an expanded syllabus, call 695-5095.

#### Adult Fiction

*Comeback*, the latest mystery by popular writer Dick Francis, features British First Secretary Peter Darwin, who must confront long-buried childhood memories.

In *Goodness* by Tim Parks, a man is forced to reassess his views on life and suffering after a series of personal crises.

In Marge Piercy's newest book, *He, She and It*, North America has become a vast toxic wasteland, where a young Jewish woman struggles to find her identity.

*The Lilac Bus* by Maeve Binchy, the author of *Light a Penny Candle*, is a contemporary collection of short stories featuring Irish characters.

A post-Cold War thriller, *River of Darkness* by James Grady involves a cross-country chase for a CIA-trained killer.



## MORE Books to Read

#### Adult Non-Fiction

Classical historian Michael Grant's *The Founders of the Western World* presents an authoritative and dramatic history of the early Greeks and Romans.

*Gastrointestinal Health* by Steven Peikin, M.D., is a self-help nutritional program devised to combat a variety of digestive disorders.

Containing 21 Native American stories from the oral tradition, *Grandmothers of the*

*Light* by Paula Gunn Allen shows how the collective wisdom of the medicine women has been passed on from generation to generation.

*Prism of the Night* by Katherine Ramsland is a biography of novelist Anne Rice.

With a foreword by Ralph Nader, *Safe Food: Eating Wisely in a Risky World* by Michael F. Jacobson covers all food categories, along with additives and water.

#### Children's Fiction

During Hanukkah, Yossi hopes that a miracle will solve his problem in *Yossi Asks the Angels for Help* by Miriam Chaikin. (Ages 6 and up)

In Gloria Houston's *Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree*, Ruthie prepares for and celebrates Christmas in a very special way. (Ages 6 and up)

George Ella Lyon movingly describes a boy's feelings about his father going to war in *Cecil's Story*. (Ages 6 and up)

Lydia Worthen, hoping to reunite her family, goes to Lowell, Massachusetts, and works in a factory in *Lyddie*, a story by Katherine Paterson. (Ages 10 and up)

#### Children's Non-Fiction

Cedric McClester's book *Kwanzaa* explains the significance and celebration of this African-American holiday. (Ages 6 and up)

David Rubel's *Elvis Presley* describes the career and personality of the "King of Rock 'n' Roll." (Ages 10 and up)

In *The Lost Garden*, award-winning author Laurence Yep tells what it's like to grow up Chinese in San Francisco. (Ages 10 and up)

Philip Yenawine presents an interesting way to look at art in *Stories*, a book put out by the Museum of Modern Art in New York. (All ages)

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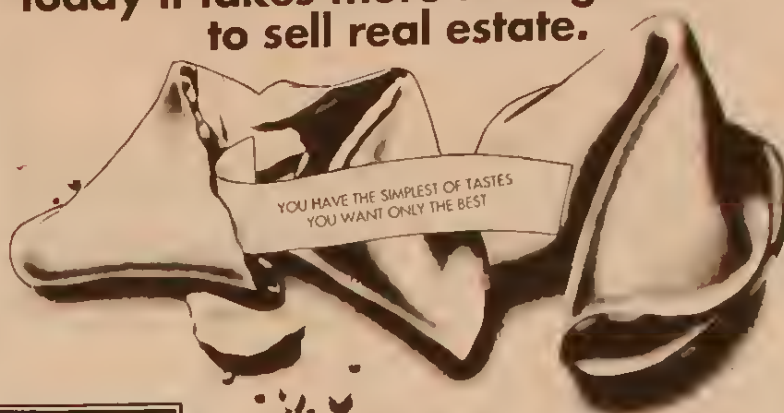


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## Noe Valley Reality Check

I JUST GOT BACK from the sands of Poipu Beach, on the southern shores of the Garden Island of Kauai, in the state of marital bliss with my sweetie pie.

We eloped. That's right. We flew away without telling anybody (and that's why the *Rumors* column was conspicuously absent from last month's issue of the *Voice*).

We got our license at Slim's Appliance Store in Kalaheo, summoned a "non-denominational" minister from Old Koloa Town, exchanged our vows on the lanai of the old Kiahuna plantation house, and watched the sunset fall into the ocean at Kukui'ula Harbor.

Total happiness. As my dear mother used to say, "If you're not happy on your wedding day, when are you gonna be happy?"

☎ ☎ ☎

BACK HOME IN NOE VALLEY, my sources in the Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) were busy filling my message machine with newsy tidbits. Here are a few standouts:

ITEM. Uptown News, the magazine shop formerly called News on 24th, finally closed after teetering for many months in the tiny storefront next to Common Scents.

Uptown owner Luins Williams posted a sign across the street in the window of the Courtyard Cafe, thanking us all for our patronage and explaining that he had "turned over the business to my friends at the Courtyard Cafe." Meanwhile, the cafe's brain trust has renamed the business News on 24th. They've also eliminated the flesh magazines from the rack.

ITEM. The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association has declared the first week of December "Fred Methner Week," in honor of Noe Valley's unofficial mayor and anti-graffiti king, who recently passed away.

So if you're reading this while strolling on 24th Street, pick up your feet. The merchants will be sweeping and steam-cleaning the sidewalks, as well as delitering the doorways and telephone

## and now for the RUMORS behind the news BY MAZOOK



Actress Whoopi Goldberg took time out from her *Sister Act* schedule in October to sample the Greek cuisine at Verona Pizza on 30th near Church. Her hosts were Andy Kapiniaris (left) and Chris Roukes (right). PHOTO COURTESY OF VERONA PIZZA

poles, just as Fred would have liked it.

ITEM. Downtown Noe Valley got its second CPOP cop this fall. Officer Lorraine Lombardo joins Lois Perillo in patrolling 24th Street, and expanding the bike patrol from four to seven days a week.

ITEM. The big winners in the Disney filming of *Sister Act* at St. Paul's in October were the church itself (which reportedly received \$50,000) and the several nearby restaurants who catered to the cast and crew, as well as to the hoards of onlookers.

The losers seem to have been the parking-spaceless residents and the merchants at the end of Church Street, many of whom claimed that their businesses fell off dramatically during the shoot.

One business that did get in on the *Act*, however, was Verona Pizza, at 30th and Church. According to Verona chef Andy Kapiniaris, film star Whoopi Goldberg was a frequent patron. She'd come in for

"a long late lunch time (a couple of hours)," and ended up trying practically every Greek dish on the menu, from spanakopita (her first choice) to mous-saka and souvlakia.

"She is a very nice lady," added Andy. "She let people take photographs with her, and graciously signed autographs." The chef smiled and mused, "I was surprised that nobody noticed the film director, Emile Ardolino, who was more of a regular than Whoopi."

ITEM. Some heavy carbo-loading is taking place at 24th Street's Real Food Company. The store recently increased the number of bins in its "Bulk Room" from 170 to 275, with major space going to pasta.

ITEM. Mail Boxes, Etc., on 24th near Castro, is doing its bit for the environment. The shop is handing out free "Desk-side Recycling Boxes," made from recycled cardboard, to encourage you to help save the trees by saving your paperwork

for the blue bins.

ITEM. The local branch of the Bank of America has awarded \$2,500 to the photography program at Buena Vista School, which this year migrated from Noe and 30th to 25th Street in the Mission.

Noe Valley photographer Irene Kane, who directs the 110-student program, says the money will enable the school's fourth-graders to make portraits of seniors, to accompany their life stories as part of an oral history project. The fifth-graders in the program will interview each other and make portraits for a class yearbook, she adds.

Kane and her fellow members of the Buena Vista PTA are extremely grateful to the BoFA, which has seen fit to give grants to a number of local projects this year. (The bank helped hail out the Noe Valley Senior Center this summer.)

☎ ☎ ☎

SPEAKING OF GIVING, this Christmas might be a good time to give more to the less fortunate among us than to friends and family. We give to them all year round, don't we?

For example, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation needs help to bring the spirit of the holiday season to people with HIV. The word has gone out that the foundation would especially appreciate donations of Christmas trees and turkeys. Call 863-AIDS.

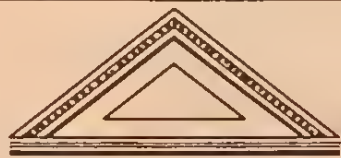
I'm sure that during these tough economic times James Lick and Alvarado schools could also use some financial help, to purchase office and classroom supplies. And even our neighborhood associations, like the East & West of Castro Club, Upper Noe Neighbors, and Friends of Noe Valley, are worthy of your support. Perhaps you could double your dues payment for the coming year.

☎ ☎ ☎

FOR THE GIFT SHOPPERS, 'tis the season to watch your Mastercard and VISA balances. With that in mind, the NVBI has surveyed some Downtown Noe Valley merchants as to their "best buys" this Hanukkah/Christmas.

Tuggey's Hardware, on 24th near Dan's gas station, suggests you check out its 4-in-1 screwdriver. For \$8.49 you get two

Continued on Page 39



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Puisse la Paix regner dans le Monde

La Oyelet miip ye.lovbecnecrty ro bceem miip

Niech ludzkosc swiata zyje w pokoju

TUWA KWATSI ES LOOMA EYESNI

אשרה שלום עלי אדמות

Mà det vaere fred på jorden

Que La Paz Prevalezca En La Tierra

Amani Iwe ul mwengunji

NGUYEN HOA BINH DEN VOI NHAN LOAI

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Må fred herske på jorden

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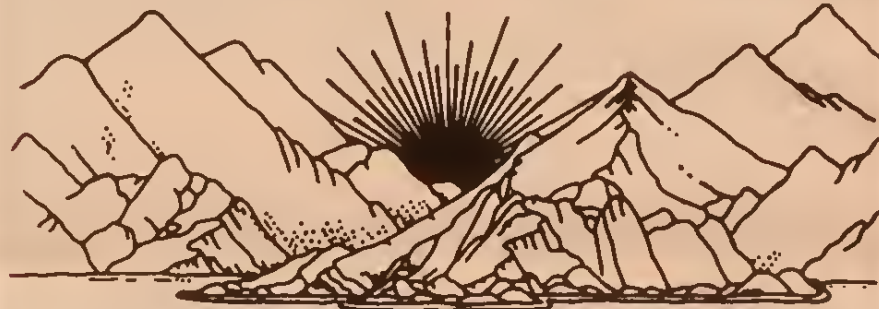
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# RUMORS

Continued from Page 37

slotted and two Phillips, wrapped in a plain brown paper bag.

Common Scents, 3920 24th St., has bulk bubble bath in an assortment of fragrances, going for 40 cents an ounce. (Bring in your own recycled bottle, and save 50 cents on the container.)

The Pantry, at 24th and Sanchez, recommends wire baskets shaped like cats, pigs, horses, chickens, and reindeer—for \$9.50 each. And nearby Panetti's Gifts is also stressing an animal theme: its "jungle-ware" dishes are now on sale for half price (\$4.50 to \$5 per cup or bowl).

Orpheus Leather, 3845 24th St., offers animalwear for real. The shop's sheepskin slippers run from \$12 (for kids' sizes) to \$27.95 (adult).

Next door to Panetti's, Xela Imports is selling some handmade flying ornaments from Bali for \$12 each, or two for \$20.

Those of you who'd like to support the artists of Haiti can buy decorative kitchen hooks sculpted from old oil drums at Global Exchange across the street. They cost \$22.50 ("natural" finish) and \$29 (painted). By the way, Global manager Alison Field notes that Haitian artifacts may soon become scarce, because many of the island's craftspeople fled from the city of Port-au-Prince following the recent right-wing coup.

Star Magic, on 24th near Castro, has a very artsy "Squiggle Wiggle Writer," a pen that creates loops as it moves across the paper (\$7.49). And there's also a giant battery-operated bubble gun for \$10.95.

For the tiny tots, Small Frys recommends some \$16 all-cotton "pumpkin" hats and booties that were handmade by Louann Wehrly, a Noe Valley resident who recently moved to Santa Rosa.

At Bolivian Imports, near the corner of Castro and 24th, you can pick up a beautiful Alpaca wool sweater ranging in price from \$22 to \$49.

If you want to give some musical entertainment this year, both Streetlight and Aquarius Records report that their hottest seller is *Nevermind* by Seattle rock band Nirvana. But in Streetlight's view, *Dim the Lights, Chill the Ham*, a new release by instrumental rockers Shadowy Men on a Shadowy Planet, is the album of choice.

Over at Cover to Cover bookstore, *Maus II*, Art Spiegelman's moving cartoon depiction of the Holocaust, is the season's top seller in the "fiction" category. As for non-fiction, Jonathan Lozoff's *Savage Inequalities*, about the plight of hungry children in America, tops the list.

Noe Valleon Gwen Carmen has published a 1992 bilingual (English/Spanish) datebook, which features a women-of-color resource guide to the Bay Area. According to Carmen, the book's photographic portraits of African-American and other women of color are currently being shown in Mexico. The datebook sells for \$13, and is available at both Cover to Cover and Global Exchange.

Another very Noe Valley gift can be found at Out of Hand, on Castro near 24th. It's a French-style "latte bowl," the ceramic creation of two San Francisco artists, Eileen Goldenberg and Ellen Blakeley. For \$15 to \$30, you can sip your coffee lattes just as they do on the Left Bank in Paris.

And then there is Radio Shack. According to 24th Street store manager Teresa Sola, the best buy at Radio Shack

this Christmas is the 20MHz 386Sx personal computer, with 85MB hard drive and built-in 2400-bps (whatever turns you on). It sells for \$1,299.

☎ ☎ ☎

**ELECTION RESULTS.** The municipal election on Nov. 5 produced a voter turnout of 51.3 percent, and some interesting results in the Noe Valley/Diamond Heights precincts.

The mayor's race was close in our neighborhood, but Agnos won, tallying 2,853 to Jordan's 2,321. The also-rans wound up like so: Alioto, 1,655; Hongisto, 1,075; Hsieh, 467; and La Riva, 131.

As expected, the domestic partners repeal (Prop. K) suffered a sound defeat, with 5,907 of neighborhood residents voting no, and 2,489 yes. And even more Noe Valleons jumped on the deputy mayor or ban wagon—the measure passed 7,459 to 5,257. But it was somewhat surprising that vacancy control (Prop. H), which represented a compromise over past rent-ceiling measures, failed to score a win in this liberal stronghold. The nays beat the yeas 4,498 to 3,818.

However, the most distressing numbers for me were the ones recorded for Proposition O, which asked, "Should it be the policy of the people of San Francisco to affirm the city's unqualified support for the First Amendment right to freedom of expression?" Twenty-two percent of local residents voted no. Sure, that means over 87 percent voted yes, but how could it be anything less than 99.9 percent?

☎ ☎ ☎

**MAYOR ART AGNOS** walked down 24th Street on Saturday, Nov. 16, trying to generate some votes for the upcoming Dec. 10 mayoral runoff. Flanked by Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg and ardent Caselli Street supporter Sue Loos (and led by Noe Valley volunteer Mark Dunlap,) the mayor greeted shoppers and kissed little children.

After kissing some kids in front of Double Rainbow Ice Cream, he asked their parents what they were concerned about. "Schools," they said in unison. As Art then voiced his support for Prop. A, which would raise the sales tax and earmark the proceeds for schools, one of the kids started to cry. "Everyone starts to cry when I talk about raising taxes," lamented the mayor.

Some 24th Streeters veered around the candidate and his entourage to avoid shaking his hand. Said Frank Zona of 23rd Street, "It irks me that now he comes out to the neighborhood after cloistering himself in City Hall for four years."

Local realtor Chris Ferigno also passed up a handshake. "This city is a hard place to do business, and he [mayor Art] is making it even more frustrating," said Chris.

After viewing the parade, 21st Street resident Joe Inferrera remained undecided. "We have a clear-cut choice now," he said, "but it seems that Agnos made a lot of promises he never kept."

The NVBI predicts that the December election will be a lot closer than most people think. (On Nov. 23, just as we were going to press, Frank Jordan was heading out to take his own walk on 24th Street.)

☎ ☎ ☎

**BEFORE I GO**, would the 1,707 neighbors who voted no on Proposition O please write me unsigned letters telling me why they voted against the First Amendment?

Happy holidays. See you in '92. ☐

# STORETREK

By Rick Garner

A couple of new shops show you how to stay in style in Noe Valley: wear some flowers in your hair, and some "baggies" on your body.

**Mia and Dianne's Flowers & Gifts**  
1478 Church St.  
641-9784

Walking by the corner of Church and 27th streets, one can't help but notice the colors—the greens, yellows, purples, and reds, spilling out of the door of Noe Valley's newest floral shop. But if you venture inside Mia and Dianne's Flowers & Gifts, things really start to blossom: covering the walls are dried-flower wreaths, baskets, and bouquets of every hue in the rainbow.

Those in need of a flora-fix will find everything from single stems and potted plants to custom-made tropical arrangements. The shop also boasts an assortment of holiday gifts, including handmade ornaments, children's garden kits, and pressed-flower kits.

After operating out of a nearby garage for several months, partners Mia Hatakeyama and Dianne Clohessy put down roots in the storefront at 1478 Church St. in early November.

"We want people to have flowers," says Hatakeyama, "because they remind us of the beauty that exists outside." The owners, both of whom are Noe Valley residents, also want to remind us of the "beauty within," and they are eager to share their talents with their neighbors.

In October, they sponsored a Halloween pumpkin-carving contest for kids, where everyone went home with a prize. Right now they are planning to hold wreath-making classes, and a May Day celebration is also on the agenda.

If you'd like to get in on the ground floor of these activities, give them a call or drop by the shop. Mia and Dianne's is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Classy Sweats**  
4068 24th St.  
824-3417

This fall Noe Valley merchant Robert Jancula opened a second clothing outlet on 24th Street. The new one (near Castro Street) bears the same name as the old



Dianne Clohessy and Mia Hatakeyama (left) want to share their wreath-making talents at their new flower shop on Church Street. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

one (near Vicksburg): Classy Sweats. But says Jancula, pointing to the skylight in the new shop, "It's a bigger, brighter store. There's a brighter mood here."

Classy Sweats number two might also be dubbed "Classier Sweats." In addition to the tee shirts, sweat pants, and jogging suits that he sells in the other store, Jancula offers a full line of moderately-priced designer sportswear, including such labels as Native Wear, Action Gear, and Le Boss.

The store's top seller is the "baggie," a loose pant which clerk Roger Perry describes as "gathered at the ankles, and usually coming in wild patterns and colors."

Perry says the baggie was this summer's fashion explosion, but now that winter is rolling around, Classy Sweats is also stocking some warmer all-cotton shirts and pants, plus a supply of socks, gloves, scarves, and jackets.

Most of the clothes are unisex and come in adult sizes, but children are not overlooked. The kids have their own section of "baggies" and sweatshirts.

The shop's hours are 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. ☐



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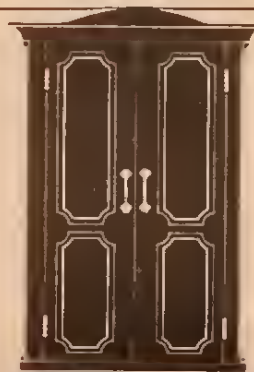


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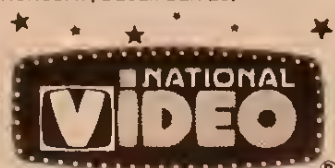
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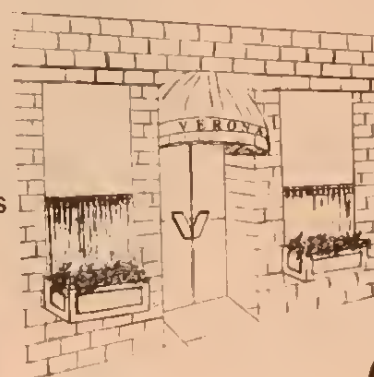
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By Jane Underwood

## Ryan Bradley McLeod

Ryan Bradley McLeod came charging into the world on Dec. 6, 1990, at 12:12 p.m., after his mom, Carla McLeod, had been in labor a mere six hours (a "quickie" by most first-baby standards). He checked in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and 11 months later is still going full speed ahead—only now it's down 24th Street.

"He actually loves being in his stroller," says his dad, Bruce McLeod, 41. "He reminds me of Washington crossing the Delaware, the way he holds on to the stroller bar and leans forward."

The McLeods, who live on Dolores Street, say Ryan also tends to stand out among the 24th Street stroller crowd because he's been wearing eyeglasses since the tender age of 5 months.

"We are constantly stopped by kindly strangers inquiring about Ryan's little eyeglasses," says Carla, 34. "The most common remarks are, 'Are those real?' and 'Are they correcting his vision?'" The answer to both questions, she notes, is yes. (Ryan was diagnosed with farsightedness, which causes infants to cross their eyes in an attempt to focus—sometimes called "lazy eye"—when he was 3 months old.)

Last month, he underwent eye surgery. "It's an operation to loosen certain muscles and keep the eyes from crossing," explains Carla. "Ryan had the operation on Friday, slept it off, and by Saturday morning he was tearing up newspapers and emptying my sock drawer, so we knew he was fine."



Carla and Bruce McLeod, with baby Ryan. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

Her son, adds Carla, has a reputation as "quite a character—he's really a talker and a laugher."

He's also learning to clap, says Dad. "He claps for himself when he does something he thinks is great, like throw-

ing a ball."

And he's up and moving these days, too. "We change his diapers standing up," laughs Carla. "That is, if we can get his attention for long enough—you know, 'Look! A potato masher!'"

Ryan's knack for keeping his parents on the fast track actually began in 1989. "When we got back from our honeymoon in Venice," says Carla, "I was pregnant." This was a big surprise, she explains, because Bruce had only recently undergone chemotherapy treatments for a tumor (now cured), and the doctor had told them that their chances of conceiving any time soon were "one in a billion."

"We thought it would've been nice to be married for a year first," recalls Carla, "but we got a jump on it. I guess you could say Ryan was a miracle baby."

Bruce, an architectural designer, admits he was somewhat disconcerted to discover "how totally and completely babies can dominate your life." He was also "astounded" to learn of "the number of diapers that they can go through in a week!"

But fatherhood, he says, "is a lot more fun than people are willing to give it credit for. I like spending time with him, and now I have an excuse not to go to work."

Maybe Ryan hurried up his birth in order to help his parents make up for the slow start they had in getting together. Although the couple first met during a theater production 19 years ago—when Carla was a 15-year-old actress and Bruce a 21-year-old set and lighting designer—they didn't connect romantically until 1988, when they once again found themselves working together on a play in Palo Alto.

"A group of us went out for beers after rehearsals one night," says Carla, who now runs her own public relations firm, but still performs on the side. "Bruce and I ended up talking and talking, and fell madly in love."

Little Ryan was probably just anxious to get in on the act. □

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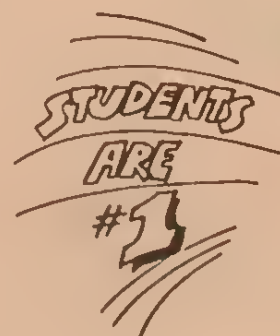
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**BRIDE'S DRESS.** Used only once, 10-foot train, Jessica McClintock. Size 7/8. \$200 or best offer. Denise, 824-3499.

**MOVING/HAULING.** Food Not Bombs activists. Fast, fair, reliable, experienced. Tom, 641-7378.

**FRIENDS IN TOWN** for the holidays? Sublet, weekly or monthly. Charming furnished granny unit. One bedroom, kitchen, and shower. Separate garden entrance, deck. Excellent public transport near Woodside Boulevard and Ulloa. Parking. Reasonable rates. (707) 938-3202.

**PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER.** Weddings, creative portraits, model and musician promos. Call for portfolio viewing. 826-2567.

**GARAGE WANTED TO RENT.** Vicksburg and 22nd area. Please call Dan at 550-6610.

**HOLIDAY SAISON.** European chefs available for your holiday brunch-lunch-dinner party or office affaire. Personalized menu, we shop, prepare, cook, and wait. For information please call Chefs on Wheels. (415) 621-8886.

**"BASIC TAXES AND RECORDKEEPING for Self-Employed People,"** a comprehensive two-evening seminar, Dec. 11 and 12. Noe Valley area. Taught by Jan Zobel, E.A. \$60 (\$100 for two). Information, 821-1015.

**PIANO FOR EVERYONE:** children, adults, beginning, intermediate, advanced. Playing the piano provides stimulus, enrichment, and pleasure. Suzuki and traditional methods available. Experienced instructor. Patricia Avery, 550-8299.

**WANTED: WOOD FURNITURE,** rugs, tools, taxidermy, household, and kitchen items. Cash for one item or entire household. Call Jim, 621-4390.

**CLEANINGHOUSE.** Home, office, apartment and apartment building maintenance cleaning. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513. References.

**FURNITURE STRIPPED** and refinished. Fine work quickly done, e.g., dresser with mirror, \$150. Jim, 621-4390. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**SUPERLATIVE WORD PROCESSING.** Experienced professional. M.A. English/M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, academic, legal, resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Grammar lessons. Notary Public. Laser printing. Good rates! Call anytime. 824-7736.

**MASSAGE** for people who care about themselves. Swedish, Shiatsu, deep tissue, sports massage. Good for pain release and stress reduction. Located in Noe Valley. Call Rose, 641-5209.

**CAT & PLANT CARE** in your home while you're away. Daily visits by experienced, mature woman, recommended by several veterinarians and satisfied clients. Noe Valley resident 20 years. Non-smoker. Bonded. Anna-Kajs (A-K), 648-8132.

**POETRY WANTED:** The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poetry related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment: \$5 to \$40 upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

# CLASADS

**CLASSICAL RECORDS (LP)** wanted. 584-1499.

**NOE VALLEY PAINTING/REMODELING CO.** Exterior/interior. Local references. 15 years. Free estimates. Adani, 824-7787.

**BODYWORK FOR WOMEN** Reduce tension, prevent disease, maintain well-being and balance with a relaxing massage. I mix Swedish, Shiatsu, polarity therapy, and intuitive moves with an open, loving heart. Certified. Noe Valley. Claire, 550-1209.

**ONE-ON-ONE FITNESS.** B.A. in physical education, nine years experience. Sensitive, professional, affordable. Anne, 821-1539.

**WITHIN A BUDDING GROVE.** Convert your garden to a drought- and frost-resistant landscape. Plant now to take advantage of the coming rains. Winterize your garden. Fruit trees and roses will need winter pruning before you know it! Design, consultation, irrigation, installation, and maintenance. Portfolio, references. Lauren, 255-6418.

**ALGEBRA BLUES?** Call Noyes Tutoring, 585-3331.

**COMPLETE GARDENING SERVICE.** Creative, efficient, and experienced. Garden designs and consultations. Pruning, planting, general maintenance and clean-ups. 626-1258.

**MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.** Reasonable rates. 648-0432 or 826-1158.

**KARATE FOR KIDS!** Get strong! Have fun! Classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Randi Hoffman, 564-6165.

**CARPENTRY AND PAINTING:** Interior/exterior, minimum on small jobs. Local references. Sandy, 585-6542.

**CUSTOM WINDOWS** by Jose. High quality, new and replacement sashes, frames, and casements. Insulated and double pane windows, pre-hung units and doors, arches and curves (odd sizes and shapes), Victorian and double-hung replacements. Old World craftsmanship and woodworking. Free estimates. Two shops conveniently located, in Noe Valley, at 1680 Sanchez St., and in the Mission, at 2968 23rd St.

**CARPENTRY, TILE, DRYWALL,** painting, custom woodworking. Reasonable rates, local references, seven years in business. Call Brad, 954-4228.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES.** Full-time, insurance agency experience preferred but will train. Resume required. Phone 333-9411.

**THE ART OF CLEANING.** A personalized concept of cleaning with a creative and innovative approach. All staff are bonded and insured employees. Call (415) 252-5358.

**ALLOW MY STRONG HANDS** to relax and nurture your tired body. Non-sexual. Peaceful studio. Flexible hours. Sliding scale. Suzy, CMT, 252-8248.

**MASSAGE FOR WOMEN.** Swedish/Shiatsu. Intuitive bodywork relaxes muscles, improves circulation, and balances energy. Be cared for and enjoy a greater sense of well-being with a soothing professional massage from Leigh, 285-8535, Noe Valley. Sliding scale. Gift certificates.

**PIANO INSTRUCTION.** All ages and levels with experienced teacher. Beginners and children my specialty. Sunset District. Helen Mitchell, 753-5224.

**TAHOE GETAWAY!** Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Tennis, golf, hiking, South Shore casinos and private beaches/swimming pool. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call now for ski season! 282-7955.

**ROMANTIC PHOTOGRAPHS.** Art, 626-6706.

**GRANDMA'S HOUSECLEANING SERVICE.** Twenty years serving the Bay Area. "Doing Work with Pride." Old-fashioned housecleaning. Our employed professional housecleaning staff are all bonded and insured. Monday-Friday, 9 to 5, (415) 252-5360.

**ASTROLOGY READINGS** and counseling. Life purpose, direction, relationships, self-acceptance, career changes, financial issues. Renee, 647-8366.

**DOES ROVER NEED TRAINING?** More exercise? A ride to the vet? Want to be sure Fluffy is content while you're away on vacation? Positively Pets can help! Training, pet-sitting, geriatric care, exercise, problem-solving, transportation. For all pets. Ten years experience. Bonded. References available. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

**PROFESSIONAL PSYCHIC.** Tarot, past-life, handwriting, crystal healings, etc. Psychic development classes. Available for private sessions and for parties. Jill Rebecca Bloom, 695-7930.

**KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING** with seasoned oak firewood. \$249 delivers one cord. Mixed cord of wood delivered \$195. Please call Five Star Firewood, at 467-5813.

**HOUSE/PET SITTER.** Reliable. Reasonable. References. Kevin, 651-6092.

**EXPERIENCED HOUSECLEANERS NEEDED** now! 387-5600.

**PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH** counseling. Private sessions involve counseling for people in transition, releasing limiting patterns, and harmonizing conflicting aspects of the self. Tarot consultations also available. Esther Goldman, M.A., psychology 431-1066.

**THE TRAVELING MECHANIC.** Tune-ups, brakes, general repairs, foreign and domestic, 17 years extensive experience, all work guaranteed. \$40 an hour, house calls. Giorgio, 647-3403. Licensed and certified.

**MASSAGE FOR MEN.** Kory, 773-9130.

**NON-TOXIC HOUSECLEANING.** I use only environmentally friendly products not tested on animals. \$12/hour. Bonded. 647-2463.

**PET TENDERS.** Reliable love and care for your pets, plants, and home while you're away. References on request. Bonded. Scott, 621-4013.

**CUSTOM PHONE INSTALLATION:** Why pay more? Auntie Belle, an alternative phone installation service! Jacks added, lines moved, repaired. Weekday evenings. Over 10 years experience. Call Alice, 647-5683.

**WINDOW REPAIRS:** Replace glass, ropes and putty. Also small carpentry and household repair jobs. Deadbolt locks. Free estimates. Courteous service. I am always on time. City Window Service 337-9327.

**IZIK REMODELING.** Carpentry, drywalls, painting, tiling, plumbing, brick walls, additions. Experienced crew. Free estimates. Call 673-5177.

**VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS** will enjoy the lovely Noe Valley home, gracious hostess, and scrumptious breakfasts at Liz's Bed and Breakfast. 648-2515.

**CUSTOM DRAPES,** fabric shades, custom quilting, bedspreads, comforters, bed accessories, slipcovers, headboard slipcovers, any type of custom quilting services, your design or ours. Call Doris, 337-9003.

**TEXTILE RESTORATION:** Textile artist and custom dyer offers efficient and economical repairs of oriental carpets, kilim, Native American rugs, tapestry, and quilts. Mounting and display services available. Call 552-8580.

**PAINTING AND DECORATING** by a professional with a keen eye to detail. Alan, 821-4995.

**LANDSCAPES BY LYNDA.** Design, construction, maintenance. Wood fences, gates, decks, walls. Concrete, brick, and stone walks and patios. Planting, water-efficient irrigation, expert pruning and garden renovation. Licensed contractor #543983. Serving Noe Valley since 1986. Phone: 759-1335.

**COUNSELING/PSYCHOTHERAPY** for women who want to become more powerful in their relationships, careers, and in making changes. ACA issues, incest, co-dependency, grief, life transitions. Sliding scale. Linda-Sue Edwards, M.F.C.C. #ML021917. 661-8252.

**BED AND BREAKFAST** Noe Valley 469-8438.

## How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢, enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will appear Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1992. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by Jan. 15, 1992. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Also note: We cannot accept payment for insertions in more than six issues. Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □



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### HOLISTIC MEDICINE

**Alan Levine, M.D.** announces the opening of his office for the practice of holistic medicine, homeopathy, and acupuncture. Dr. Levine is board-certified in family medicine and psychiatry.

For an appointment call 861-0168.  
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# CALENDAR

**NOV. 30-DEC. 24:** The annual holiday GIFT SHOW at Ruby's Clay Studio offers a variety of pottery and hand-sculpted pieces. Mon.-Fri., 4-7 pm, Sat. & Sun., noon-6 pm. 552A Noe St. 861-9779

**DEC. 2, 9 & 16:** The Sri Chinmoy Centre sponsors a free MEDITATION class, offering basic techniques, tips, and discussion. 6-7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 681-5419

**DEC. 3 & 17:** The Noe Valley Library's preschool STORY TIME is a reading-aloud program for 3-5-year-olds. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**DEC. 4:** A book signing/reading party celebrates the updated 1991 edition of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's pioneering 1972 book, *LESBIAN WOMEN*. 6 pm. Cafe San Marcos, Market at Castro. 565-7667

**DEC. 4:** Diane Middlebrook reads from *ANNE SEXTON: A Biography*, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet's sessions with her psychoanalyst. 8 pm. Old Wives' Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

**DEC. 4, 11 & 18:** Parents can enjoy songs, stories, and fingerplays with their baby or toddler at the Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

## DECEMBER 1991

**DEC. 5:** Gallery Sanchez sponsors a prayer wheel-making WORKSHOP. 6:30-9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

**DEC. 5:** A community meeting on NOE COURTS will address the park's hours, and fencing the sandbox area, among other issues. 7:30 pm. Latvian Lutheran Church, 425 Hoffman St. Call Erica Green, 441-7272, ext. 224

**DEC. 6:** The School of the Arts, which makes its home in McAteer High School, presents a winter CONCERT featuring the SOTA wind ensemble and concert and jazz bands. 7:30 pm. 555 Portola Drive. 695-5720.

**DEC. 6-8:** Students of artist N'ima Leveton hold their second annual GROUP SHOW. Reception Dec. 6, 6-9 pm; Sat. & Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Fobbo Gallery, 3727 23rd St. 695-0640.

**DEC. 6, 7, 13 & 14:** Footwork/Dancers' Group performs "Local 6," a showcase for artists in DANCE, theatre, and new performance. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

**DEC. 9:** Walter Traverso's music will provide the accompaniment for the Diamond Senior Center's monthly birthday party, lunch, and DANCE. Noon-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

**DEC. 7:** The Immaculate Conception Academy's annual benefit Christmas FAIRE offers handmade items, toys, games, and a visit from Santa. 10 am-4 pm. 24th & Guerrero. 545-1818.

**DEC. 7:** Everett Middle School will host a CRAFTS FAIR and garage sale to benefit the school's services, supplies, and after-school programs. 9 am-3 pm. 450 Church St. 241-6344.

**DEC. 7:** New College of California's Arts and Social Change Program presents a SHOWCASE of music, performance, and dance. 7 pm. 777 Valencia St. 626-0884

**DEC. 7:** Caregivers will get some practical and emotional support at a WORKSHOP, "Caregiving: The Final Stage." Kairos House, 114 Ooughlass St. 861-0877

**DEC. 7:** Singer/comedian/actor Brian Lohmann, a.k.a. JOHNNY LONELY performs "the world's most depressing lounge act." 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**DEC. 8:** Bargains in clothing, books, and housewares abound at the Noe Valley Nursery School benefit GARAGE SALE. 10 am-4 pm. 1217 Sanchez St. 647-2278.

**DEC. 8:** Certified massage therapist Ousa Althea Rammessirsingh offers a free MINI-MASSAGE for shoppers at Old Wives' Tales. 11 am-1 pm. 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

**DEC. 8:** The combined CHOIRS of Bethany Church and the Noe Valley Ministry will perform Vivaldi's *Magnificat*. 10:30 am, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 11-15 am, Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393

**DEC. 8:** Tom Ammiano hosts an evening of MUSIC AND COMEDY to benefit Proposition A and music programs in San Francisco's public schools. Guests will include the Margie Baker Trio, vocalist Elaine Snyder, and the Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company. 3-5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 931-4313

**DEC. 8 & 14:** Topiary trees, Christmas stockings, ornaments, aprons, candies, cookies, and festive breads will be among the holiday wares at a CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE sponsored by St. Paul's High School alumnae. Dec. 8, noon-5 pm; Dec. 14, 10 am-5 pm. 221 Valley St. 648-0505.

**DEC. 10:** FILMS for children 3-5 will be shown at 10 and 11 am; the program for kids 6 and older begins at 3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**DEC. 10:** Integral Yoga Institute offers a music meditation WORKSHOP, "Sound from Stillness." 7:30 pm. 770 Oolores St. 821-1117

**DEC. 11:** Children of all ages are invited to make HOLIDAY CRAFTS at the Noe Valley Library. 2-5 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



Golden Bough puts an updated glaze on folk music from the British Isles in their Dec. 14 concert at the Noe Valley Ministry.

**DEC. 11:** Neighborhood musician Bruce Sherman plays for adults and children at a HOLIDAY CELEBRATION at the Noe Valley Library. 7:30-8:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**DEC. 11 & 12:** Jan Zobel leads a two-part SEMINAR, "Basic Tax and Recordkeeping Information for Self-Employed People." 7-9:30 pm. Call 821-1015 for information.

**DEC. 11-15:** New College of California's Humanities Program presents BERTOLT BRECHT'S *Drums in the Night*. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Valencia Theatre, 777 Valencia St. 626-0884, ext. 213

**DEC. 12:** Meet the artists of *Twisted Sisters: A Collection of BAD GIRL ART*, an anthology of funny and candid comic tales. 5:30-8:30 pm. Panetti's Gills, 3927 24th St. 282-0346.



Zhuo Yue balances a "pagoda of bowls" as part of the Pickle Family Circus holiday show, opening Dec. 14 at the Palace of Fine Arts. PHOTO BY KATY RADATZ.

**DEC. 12:** Enjoy the company of local GARDENERS in the community meeting room of the Noe Valley Library. 2:30-4 pm. 451 Jersey St. 648-5187

**DEC. 13:** The School of the Arts presents a Winter Choral and Orchestra CONCERT, featuring a program ranging from Renaissance to contemporary works. 7:30 pm. SOTA Theatre, 555 Portola Drive. 695-5720.

**DEC. 13:** Virtuoso GUITARIST Duck Baker performs old-time and Celtic music—both solo and with the Beamish Boys. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 756-6857.

**DEC. 14:** GOLDEN BOUGH'S music evokes a 19th-century Christmas in the British Isles. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

**DEC. 14 & 15:** Local WEAVERS Susan Ray, Mariko Orutani, and Rhonda Smith are participating in the Fort Mason Weavers' Annual Holiday Sale. 10 am-6 pm. Building B, Fort Mason, Laguna & Marina. 561-1840.

**DEC. 14-JAN. 4:** The PICKLE FAMILY CIRCUS' annual holiday show promises inspired clowning, plus juggling, balancing, diving, and flying antics. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St. Call 826-5678 for times.

**DEC. 14-JAN. 15:** Six Latin PHOTO-GRAPHERS, including Jersey Street resident Daniel de Souza, open an exhibit called "Contactos" at Galeria Museo. Reception Dec. 14, 6:30-9 pm. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 1-6 pm., Sat., 11-4 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. 821-1155.

**DEC. 15:** Editor Elizabeth Martinez discusses "500 Years of CHICANO HISTORY in Pictures," a look at Mexican-American reality since the conquest. 8 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

## JANUARY 1992

**DEC. 15:** Bethany Methodist Church's Christmas CONCERT and chorale begins at 7 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393

**DEC. 21:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts guitar legend JOHN FAHEY, performing selections from his Christmas albums. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**DEC. 21 & 22:** City BALLET School presents a holiday benefit, "The Gift of Oance," featuring excerpts from the *Nutcracker Suite*. Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 2 & 8 pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 474-1234

**DEC. 24:** Bethany Church holds a CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE for children. 7 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393

**DEC. 27:** Dorothy Sue Cobble discusses her book *Dishing It Out: Waitresses and Their Unions in the Twentieth Century*. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**DEC. 28:** NOE VALLEY MOVIES screens rare episodes of "Stingray" and "Ultraman," plus "Johnny Sokko and His Flying Robot" and the ultra-low-budget classic "The Slime People." 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**JAN. 5-11:** Clipper Street's Fiesta Tours sponsors its 10th-anniversary escorted TOUR to San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato, historical monuments located in the mountains near Mexico City. Call 648-3352 for more information.

**JAN. 5-31:** GALLERY SANCHEZ presents "Four Artists' New Insight," including works by Gary Barten, Jenny Hunter Groat, Frank Pietronigro, and Susan Reardon. Reception Jan. 5, 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

**JAN. 11:** Harpist/storyteller Robin Williamson, founder of the Incredible String Band, performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**JAN. 18:** Popular jazz vocalist OAVE FRISHBERG performs an evening of wit and song. 9 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**JAN. 22-FEB. 14:** Upper Noe Neighbors and the S.F. Fire Department offer a five-week Wednesday-night training for community residents in emergency response following an earthquake or disaster. 6:45 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez. Call Sue Bowie, 824-1062, for information.

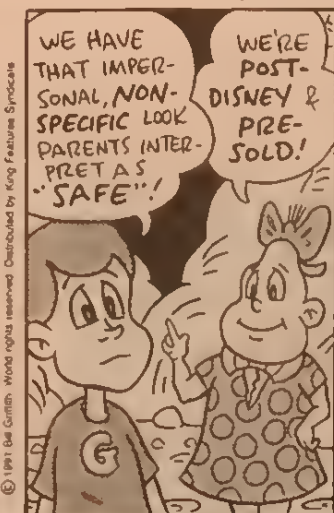
**JAN. 23:** Everyone is invited to the Upper Noe Neighbors' program on LOCAL HISTORY. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez. Call 641-5989 or 824-1062.

**JAN. 25:** The Noe Valley Music Series hosts Celtic Elvis & the Genuine Oiamelles in an A CAPELLA MUSIC festival. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272

**ZIPPY**



**"TURN ON, TUNE IN, GROSS OUT!!"**



**BILL GRIFFITH**

### The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The *Voice* is on vacation this month, so the next issue, covering calendar events in February, will appear on Tuesday, Feb. 4. The deadline for calendar items is Jan. 15, 1992.